

Vol. 54, No. 2

Published Monthly

February, 1999

1308 West 8th Street
Los Angeles, Calif. 90017

The THIN Blue Line

Golf Day

To Benefit Family Support Group



More on Golf Tournament on page 32

TOP:
Representation from
"Shoot'n Newton."

BOTTOM:
Family Support Group
President Ann Brunzell
with League President
Dave Hepburn and V.P.
Gary Fullerton.

Fight Night

To Benefit City of Hope



More on Boxing
coverage on page 30

LAPD Boxing Team proclaiming dominance
and #1 status. Kneeling (lt. to rt.) Donna
Shoates, George Lopez (Team Captain),
Frankie Diaz, Dave Carbajal, Tomas Delgado
(Head Trainer). Standing (lt. to rt.) Manny
Zapata, Willie Guerrero (committee member)
Manuel Delgado (Asst. Trainer) Chief Parks,
Rosalind Iiams with daughter, League Director
Lenny Muñoz (committee member), not pic-
tured Ruben Palomares and Rudy Barragan.

Photos by Dennis P. Zine



★ ★ ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ★ ★ ★

Charter Reform

by Dave Hepburn

As the Charter Reform process draws ever closer to a conclusion, the issues involving police discipline have become the focus of contentious and controversial arguments before the Elected Charter Commission. The League has been advocating positions that would make Boards of Rights a more fair system, while the Department has been trying to protect the status quo.

The League's original position was elimination of the Board of Rights system, replacing it with binding arbitration of discipline. Binding arbitration would have guaranteed officers an objective outside review of disciplinary decisions made by the Chief of Police.

After a lengthy debate at the December 14 Charter Commission Meeting, it was clear there was no consensus on the Commission for binding arbitration; however, a number of Commissioners felt that the League had made its case that the current sys-

tem was tainted by command influence by the Chief of Police. They were extremely concerned that the Chief was undermining the essential fairness of the system by "counseling" commanding officers who made decisions on Boards of Rights with which the Chief disagreed.

Due to the Commission's concern for the fairness of the system, Chairman Erwin Chemerinsky formed a committee involving representatives from the Commission, the League, and the Department. While participating on the committee, the League made a new proposal to alter the composition of Boards of Rights. Instead of two command officers and one civilian, the League proposed one command officer, one civilian, and one officer from the ranks of sergeant, detective or lieutenant as the third member of the Board. As a League Member, that third member of the Board, unlike command officers, would have protection from undue

command influence. They would be able to make decisions based strictly on the evidence, as required by the City Charter. At least then the system would have some semblance of objectivity, and officers whose jobs are in jeopardy at a Board of Rights would have some confidence that they would be treated fairly.

The committee made recommendations to the full Elected Charter Reform Commission, which put those issues on the agenda for the January 11 meeting. The Chief recognized that the League's proposal had persuaded many of the Commissioners to make a change in the composition of Boards of Rights, so he pulled out all stops to make sure that as many spokespersons as possible would be present at the Commission Meeting to support the his position.

As the debate ensued, the usual parade of "police reformers" expressed support for the Chief's position, even though few if any of them had any idea

how a Board of Rights is conducted or how the League's proposal would change the system. Most disturbing, however, was the appearance by the president of La Ley and the president of OJB, who both inexplicably sided with the Chief against the League's proposal, intentionally undermining the tremendous amount of energy, resources and effort the League had put into the Charter Reform process. In a display of blatant, arrogant indifference to the interests of our officers, who have been pummeled repeatedly by the disciplinary tactics of the Chief of Police, they selfishly ingratiated themselves to the Chief by puckering up and planting one on his backside.

The League has stood alone in its fight to prevent the Chief and the Department from taking away rights from police officers. Only the League has been at the table when the City has repeatedly threatened to take away

Continued on page 13

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PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

GARY MORGAN, VICE PRESIDENT

I would like to begin my article with a note of appreciation to my fellow Directors and League members for their support and confidence in my new assignment as Vice President of the Protective League. I look forward to the challenges of this new assignment and the responsibility that accompanies the position.

Upon coming to the League I chose the heading of "Preparing for the Future" for a very important reason. I felt the League needed to put greater emphasis on both short-and long-term goals, improved benefits to our members, better service to our membership, and an overall enhancement of what and how we do business. Based on this vision, the Board has continued to work towards these goals and has strived at a continual analysis of our operational needs and demands.

The Protective League Enters a New Era of Employee Representation

The Board of Directors has decided to pursue a new public relations program designed to ultimately improve and enhance our public image and our ability to represent our membership. The program is intended to give recognition to the daily efforts of our officers in both the delivery of service and the unselfish deeds and efforts our officers put forth on a personal level, that make our community a better place to live.

The program will enhance our ability to communicate with the community, establish a trust and appreciation, and give recognition to the rank and file. The promoting agency will become the Protective League, not the Department. The program will improve our ability to deal with elected officials, create a genuine desire to have our endorsements, develop a better working relationship with City decision makers, and establish a far more beneficial relationship with community leaders. The program will assist the organization in communicating with the community on issues concerning contract negotiations or other matters dealing with the Department. This is an entirely new approach by our labor organization and the benefits we gain will benefit the path of the future.

Protective League Enters the Field of Donating Funds for Charitable Organizations

The Board has decided the time has come for the rank and file to take over the disbursement of funds to charitable organizations. The Board has instructed General Counsel to file the necessary paperwork to establish a tax-exempt charitable trust account.

The City, for years, has taken voluntary charitable deductions from officers' checks and has taken credit for the distribution of these funds. The Board believes

the recognition for these contributions should go to the rank-and-file officers who make these funds available.

Once the charitable trust account has been established, the Board of Directors will be asking officers to redirect their contributions to the charitable trust fund. The redirection of contributions will enable the Board, on behalf of the members, to distribute these funds to the various groups or organizations and give recognition to the rank and file for their efforts. The distribution of these funds will enhance our public image and enhance our ability to open doors and deal with those involved within our community. I believe this is truly a good program and encourage every member to participate. The program has **no additional cost to our members**, since the contributions are already being made by members. When this procedure is implemented, you will be informed about how to take advantage of this program.

I sincerely hope this article gives you some insight and direction of the League in the coming years. If any members have additional insight or suggestions, please feel

free to contact me. I am here to work in the best interest of our organization and my goal is to be the best at what we do.

Great News!

The Los Angeles Police Relief Association and the Police Protective League have reached an agreement on the leasing of space in the League building. The plans have been submitted and construction is due to begin in the very near future. The modifications and improvements designed by the Police Relief Board in the new facility will ultimately offer the membership state-of-the-art service and accommodations. This has been a year-long project, and the effort and commitment by all parties is greatly appreciated.

The two entities have been operating apart for almost 75 years and, based on the genuine desire by both Boards to move forward and improve and develop a joint commitment, the membership will be better served. The opening date will be announced when final construction estimates are completed. Once again, I thank everyone involved in this highly beneficial project.



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TED HUNT, SECRETARY

Congratulations Governor Davis

For the past several years we have worked to ensure the election of Gray Davis as Governor of California. Many of you told me that you had never before voted for a Democrat but you believed the positive things we told you about Gray and you decided to cross over and vote for him. The vast majority of public safety officers all over this state voted for Gray.

Our new Governor wants to do what is best for the men and women who work the streets, the detective tables and the fire apparatus' so we can better serve the public. In his inaugural speech, Governor Davis said, "I am a moderate, I ran as a moderate and I will govern as a moderate." He went on to encourage each public employee to regenerate the feeling we had when we first took our oath of office: our promise to serve the public good. Hopefully, we're inspired by the prospect of a better future and that we'll work to do our best to honor our promise "to protect and to serve."

Remain at League

With your continued support, I intend to honor my promise and commitment to you and stay at the League. I'll continue to serve as your Director. Our Department is in serious trouble. There are huge battles we'll confront over the next few years, not just the battle over another contract but battles to preserve our pride and dignity and to save the Department that we all love from mismanagement. I don't walk away from my friends and responsibilities. We can save this Department if we work together.

Attention All Civic Leaders

When a radio call of critical nature is broadcast, it is preceded by three distinct beeps. The dispatcher then clearly and distinctly says something like, "Attention all units and 3-A-71, a 211 in progress at ..." etc. We know to pay attention. Do they?

BEEP - BEEP - BEEP: Attention all units on all frequencies and all

City leaders both elected and appointed, there is an iceberg ahead. Your ship is headed toward it on a collision course.

The LAPD organizational culture appears to be on the verge of imploding. The public is beginning to see and to feel the waste of resources and the systematic dismantling of community-police relations. The results of the management by fear and intimidation are beginning to surface in a lower quality of service to the taxpayers. A significant number of officers are afraid to do their job, that includes command and staff officers as well as the rank and file.

Elected and appointed City leaders, please understand that we **do not want "dishonest cops."** Dishonest cops are an insult to every police officer.

This Is Not About Discipline We Support A Fair Disciplinary System

This is about inherent systemic unfairness, injustice and the mismanagement of the resources of today's LAPD. That leads to a lower quality of service and higher taxes.

Beyond that, America was founded on the deep-seated distrust of big government. Even a casual reading of the Constitution and the documents leading up to it (Federalist Papers; Declaration of Rights; Declaration of Independence; and Articles of Confederation) clearly show that embedded suspicion.

As the police administration moves its agenda toward total control, the usual advocates of civil liberties (the ACLU) have sided with totalitarianism. Those comments may seem a little dramatic since this is "just about the City Charter" and particularly Section 202. But consider that LA is the second largest city in the USA, the dominant city in the west and the center of the world's seventh largest economy.

To permit total control of the police function of a major city is not just BAD public policy it runs counter to the founding principles of our great nation. Repeating from my article last August, "Is that the seed of corruption - or a fully-grown fruit-bearing tree?"

THIN BLUE LINE (THE)
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
ISSN #0279-697X USPS 440-930
LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE
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Thin Blue Line (The) is the official publication of the Los Angeles Police Protective League and published monthly under the supervision of its Board of Directors. However, opinions expressed by individual Board members or any other writer in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the entire Board of Directors. \$15.00 of your annual dues is for subscription to *Thin Blue Line (The)*.

Periodicals postage paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Thin Blue Line (The)*, 1308 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017, Fax: (213) 251-4566.

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PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS

TIM SANDS, TREASURER

Officer-Involved Shootings: Everything You Need to Know About Your Rights

For the officer who has just managed to endure a traumatic and life-threatening experience, during which he or she was required to use deadly force, the follow-up investigation can oftentimes be as turbulent and confusing as the incident itself. Under these most trying circumstances, the officer is forced to make tough decisions that may impact his or her entire career – not to mention his or her freedom.

In the aftermath of such an event, the officer is asked, and compelled, into making statements or providing evidence that will have far-reaching effects in criminal, civil and administrative forums. When coupled with feelings of professional duty and psychological need to discuss the incident, the officer is in the position of making critical but difficult decisions when emotionally least able to do so.

This article will examine officers' rights and obligations during the investigation following a use of deadly force, as well as discuss some collateral issues that will impact the decisions employees must make.

Representation

First, and most importantly, every officer involved in an incident where deadly force is used, has the right to

secure legal representation and to discuss matters with that representative prior to providing an oral or written statement. That right is guaranteed in Government Code Section 3303(i), which provides that an officer who is under investigation and is subject to interrogation shall have the right "at his or her request...to be represented by a representative of his or her choice who may be present at all times during the interrogation."

This right, however, must be asserted by the officer, who must affirmatively request representation. Even if the "interrogation" takes the form of an order to complete a written statement detailing the incident, the right to representation attaches.

Every use of deadly force will necessarily encompass both an administrative and a criminal review of the incident. The administrative investigation will focus primarily on whether the officer acted within department policies at the time of the incident, whereas the criminal investigation will focus on whether the officer's use of deadly force was legally justified.

The LAPPL, after every O.I.S. with a hit for the member, responds an on-call attorney, defense rep, and director. R.H.D. detectives who handle the O.I.S. incident are fair, highly-trained, professional individuals. However, as stated in the first paragraph of this article, the officer is often confused and upset after an

O.I.S. That is why I highly recommend that an officer exercise the benefit of having an attorney, defense rep, and director respond and assist them.

Compelled Statements

An officer has NO legal obligation to provide a written or oral statement to investigators, unless and until compelled to do so by a superior officer. The department can compel an officer to provide a statement for administrative purposes only, but that statement, including information acquired therefrom, cannot be used against the officer in any subsequent criminal proceedings.

Civil Protection for Compelled Statements

Officers who insist upon an order to provide a statement, will provide some protection for that statement in the event a civil case is filed in state court. Government Code Section 3303(f) provides that, except in limited circumstances, a compelled statement is not admissible in a subsequent civil proceeding. If the officer's decision to use deadly force was questionable, or even if the decision ap-

pears sound, a subsequent civil action may be helped by assuring that the involved officer provides only coerced statements. This general rule is subject to limitation by the Code, which provides that compelled statements can be used to impeach testimony of the officer if, after an *in camera* review, the judge determines that the statements serve that purpose. By insisting upon a compelled statement, however, officers assure themselves of an *in camera* review, at a minimum.

It is impossible to discuss every possible scenario where deadly force could be used, and to summarize all the rights, obligations and strategic considerations that come into play for each such incident. Officers who are forced to use deadly force should be very guarded about the statements they make and be mindful that it is difficult to repair a damaging statement made in the heat of an incident.

Take care and be safe.

(Editor's Note: The LAPPL wishes to thank the law firm of Silver, Hadden & Silver for contributing to this article by Director Sands.)

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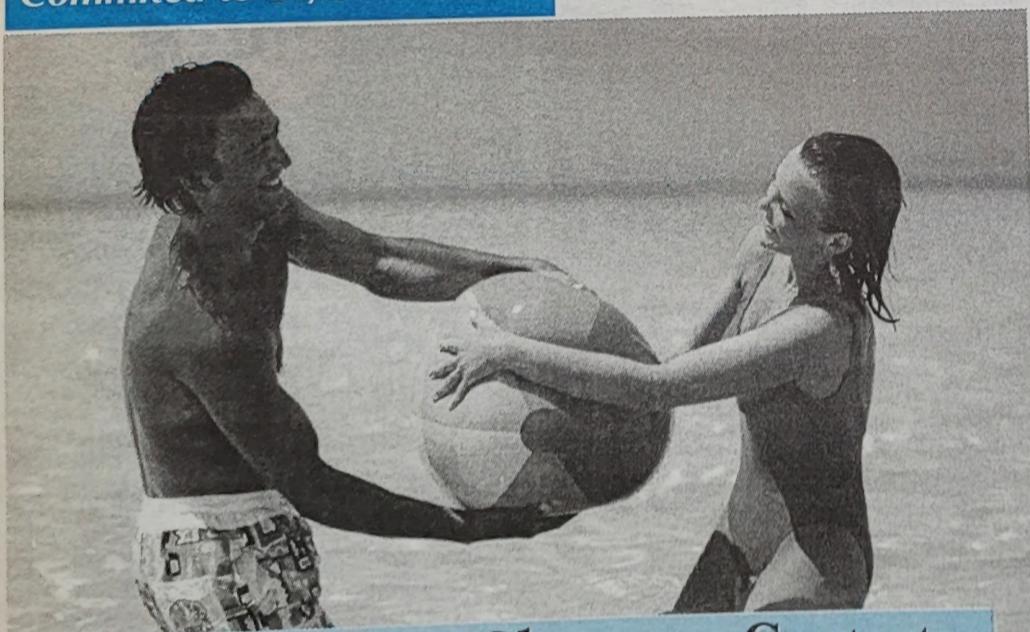


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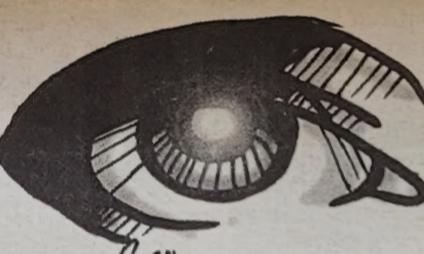
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UNITED WE STAND

GARY FULLERTON

For several months I have been railing about the gross inequity of our disciplinary system. Without a doubt it is biased and unfair. But there is a little known quasi-disciplinary process known as a "Board of Inquiry," or Fitness Hearing, that is even more unfair and insidious. The problem is that most officers have no idea what it is or how bad they can be dealt with until they are personally faced with it.

A Board of Inquiry is authorized under Manual Section 2/094.10, but provides very little guidance for how it should be done, what issues are appropriate for such a tribunal, and what power is granted. Because of this vague language, the Department has used this little tool in a multitude of ways. But it is used most often to discipline an officer without bothering to go to a Board of Rights, where there are actual delineated rules that somewhat limit the damage that can be done. Not with the Board of Inquiry.

The manual states that a Board of Inquiry can be convened by the "Convening Authority" (Read that Chief "Burnie") and he must issue a "Precept," which is a document that spells out what he wants investigated, who will conduct the investigation, what the final report should include, and what course of action should be taken. It is my guess that on many occasions it also includes what the end result should be. The manual states that "at the discretion of the chair,"

the accused employee may be present and permitted to call a "reasonable" number of witnesses in support of relevant issues. But of course, if in the opinion of the Chief, the subject matter is of a "confidential nature," he is authorized to refuse to allow the accused employee to be present or present any defense. What constitutes a "confidential" matter is left entirely up to the Chief's discretion, and any evidence of findings by this tribunal could be used against the accused officer at a Board of Rights or criminally. Sound fair? Sounds more like the Star Chamber than modern jurisprudence? And just think, the courts have upheld this system as being legal and protective of your rights.

One example of this "fair" system occurred several years ago. An officer received a stiff penalty at a Board of Rights. Not only did he get major days, but was administratively transferred to no-man's land. Then he was the subject of a Board of Inquiry and was passed over on the current detective's list because of the discipline. Sound like double jeopardy? Just wait, it gets better. This officer, to his credit, was a good little soldier and took his spanking like a man. He worked hard, received outstanding ratings and, several years later, took the sergeant and detective exams. During the orals he discussed his prior discipline at great length and was placed on the promotion lists. It was apparent that his ranking was affected by

his prior discipline, but he would eventually be promoted. Well, when it came close to his position on the lists, Burnie notified him that he would be the subject of another Board of Inquiry and passed over on both promotional lists because Burnie felt that the officer hadn't paid enough for his prior transgressions. The officer was, in fact, passed over and not promoted. Sound fair? Sound like a subversion of the civil service system? The same system that was supposedly set up to protect lowly employees from the tyranny of the bosses? You bet. And the League felt it had to be illegal. So we went to court to protect this officer and to lay claim to his rightful place among the supervisory elite. But, guess what? The court disagreed and ruled that the Chief had the right to pass over anyone he wants on a promotional list. After all, you don't have a property right in the expectation of a promotion. And without a legal property right, you have no right to complain. Sound like a legal mumbo-jumbo? It is. But sometimes the law isn't fair. It would be really nice, though, to have an administration that didn't rely on the tricks of the law and looked at issues based on fairness and equity. Don't you think so? This would be a much better place to work, with only that one little change in philosophy. But this is too much to ask from a man who has made a career out of injustice and inequality.

Another recent example of how the Board of Inquiry system is being used was brought to my attention. It seems a certain sergeant was offered a number of days for a matter in which he felt he was innocent. He opted for a Board of Rights so that he could argue his case of innocence. This is, of course, his right. The Board still found him guilty but reduced his penalty to five days. He recognized his guilt and apologized for his mistakes and vowed to learn from the incident. Since he was close to be-

ing promoted to lieutenant, he was ordered to a Board of Inquiry. At the Board it was clear to him that the members of the Board, all command officers, had already decided that he was unfit for promotion. The chairman stated that they were troubled by his lack of acceptance of responsibility for his misconduct. When the officer tried to tell them that this was not so, he was cut short. The Chairman told him that because of the mere fact that he opted for a Board of Rights rather than accept the proposed penalty, it was a clear indication that he did not accept responsibility. Can you imagine the audacity of this sergeant to actually exercise his rights and to give an explanation for his actions? It must have been painfully clear to this Board that this man was not fit to be a lieutenant. After all, anyone who doesn't go along with the program without question must be a subversive, right?

To make matters worse, this Board of Inquiry then noticed that this sergeant had opted for another Board of Rights several years previous, but had been found not guilty. They insisted on reviewing the previous complaint and using it as evidence in the current matter even though he had been found not guilty. It seems that he had developed a "pattern of conduct" by opting for a Board of Rights when he actually disagreed with the findings of his commanding officer. The audacity! How could this sergeant possibly expect to be promoted when he had established such a vicious pattern of disloyalty? I wish I was trying to be funny. But, pitifully, it is the truth.

Sorry for such a lack of merriment for the New Year. But the truth is the truth. Be careful out there, and remember, the Chief doesn't pay your legal bills, he causes them.

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I'M HERE TO WORK

LENNO MUÑOZ

The Fifth Annual Fight for Life

Continued from Center Spread

In homage to our country, he introduced the combined Color Guard of both Departments. Each member of the unit was "military" sharp as they marched down the aisles and entered the ring, followed by LAPD's Rosalind Iiams, doing the Department proud with her outstanding uniformed appearance. Officer Iiams sang a wonderful rendition of our national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, for which she received a standing ovation from the crowd.

The crowd was on edge, but things got better. Spotted mingling with the spectators were several well known ex-fighters from the Los Angeles area, including former W.B.A. Heavyweight Champ, Mike Weaver; former W.B.A. Lightweight Champ Mando Ramos; and former LAPD Patrol Officer and Heavyweight contender, Joey Orbillo. But things really got going when current undefeated four-time champion, Oscar "Golden Boy" De La Hoya entered the sacred auditorium; the home of legends. The Golden Boy was mobbed, and happily chatted with every fan who approached him for autographs and photos. He obliged everybody and stayed for the action.

Action is exactly what followed. Southwest Division's Manny Zapata was confronted by a game and talented Steve

Propster and they put on quite an exhibition of boxing. Manny was a little faster, a little sharper and was awarded a unanimous decision. Next up was Ruben "The Mechanic" Palomares of Rampart Division. Ruben's reputation is such that the United States Marine Corps had to be brought in. Gyrene Anthony Gonzalez, a USMC Sergeant, upheld the proud tradition of the Corps, but "The Mechanic" earned the nod and was declared the winner.

In the third fight, California Summer Games Heavyweight Open Champion, Torris Epps of Huntington Park Police Department took Officer Ray Desmarests of the L.A. County Safety Police in the second round.

Following was the fight of the night. Officer Francisco Diaz and Deputy Jerry Ortiz engaged in a Pier 6 brawl that had their supporters on their feet throughout the bout. Each fighter was floored during the grueling match that eventually was awarded to Diaz on a split decision. Kudos to both cops for an outstanding display of guts and determination.

Nextup and leading into intermission was the much anticipated female fight pitting Officer Donna Shoates of the Arrest and Control School against Deputy Tanya Edwards. This was a tremendous bout. Newcomer Shoates was stunned by Edwards in the first round and almost overwhelmed by her strength. She showed true grit and great conditioning by hanging in there and blasting back. Shoates wore down the brave Ed-

wards, hurting her badly towards the end, after which the fight was stopped and Shoates earned her first win in her first fight. The crowd loved it and raised the roof.

The fans were almost spent and welcomed the intermission. Officer Julio Endara of Bell Police Department gave his outstanding version of "I'm Proud to Be An American" that brought the house down.

After intermission, Officer George Lopez, LAPD boxing legend, fought Deputy Mando Guzman. In another exciting bout, Lopez eked out a split decision victory. The final fight of the night brought Officer David Carbajal, always popular with the crowd, against Deputy Pedro Enciso. The sheriff's supporters were in a fervor, loudly urging Enciso on; not to let LAPD blank the deputies. Determined and proud, Enciso outfought the game Carbajal to earn a unanimous decision.

Officer Rudy Barragan (Newton Division) is also a member of the LAPD Boxing Team and was slated to fight. He suffered an eye cut on the last day of training and was not allowed to compete.

After the legendary auditorium darkened, most of the crowd headed for the official post-fight party, hosted by the Arreola family at their popular restaurant, Café America, located within the L.A. Furniture Mart at Washington and Hill, a stone's throw from the Olympic. There was a "Whole lotta shaking going on" to the music from a great DJ, plenty of good food to snack on (compliments of house) and lots of your favorite beverage. See you next year. Same time, same place, same good cause, same fun.

Puppy Needs Help

Recently I received a call from a concerned citizen who stated she was having difficulty solving a problem and that the League and the *Thin Blue Line* were her last hope.

She related that recently she had rescued a Tea Cup Pomeranian from the pound in the San Fernando Valley. The purebred canine

had gone beyond the period of time allowed for the rightful owner to establish a claim and was up for grabs. If not adopted, the dog would eventually be terminated. She paid the fees and took the pup home, but decided to try to locate the original owner. She determined the dog was lost and then found in mid-December of 1998, somewhere in the West Valley Area. She learned the owner was a female Los Angeles Police Officer residing in Encino. She could not establish identity but hoped she could get a response through the League. Anyone with information can contact me at (213) 251-4590 with identifying characteristics of the pup. I will notify the good samaritan to determine if the caller is the bona fide owner.

Police Memorial Week

May 15, 1999, National Peace Officers Memorial Day, is rapidly approaching. Ceremonies paying tribute to law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty are slated to take place on a local, state and national level. Sadly, the Los Angeles Police Department lost three of its fine young officers in 1998, all to gun-wielding gang members. 1999 memorial services honoring LAPD officers Steve Gajda, Jr. (Hollenbeck Division), Filbert Cuesta, Jr. (Southwest Division) and Brian Brown (Pacific Division), are planned as follows:

Date	City	Site
May 6-7	Sacramento	State Capitol
May 10	Los Angeles	Parker Center
May 13-15	Washington, DC	Capitol Mall

Anyone wishing to attend any of these events should make arrangements as soon as possible. Officers are requested to attend these events in sharp-A uniform. As last year, this may become an on-duty assignment. Questions in this regard can be forwarded to the Office of the Chief of Police.

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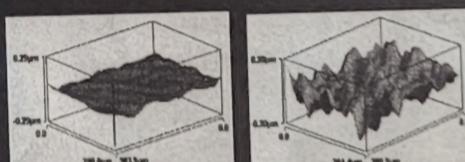
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Grievance is Won After Four Year, Five Month Wait

I filed a grievance on behalf of Foothill Division Sergeant Larry McKinley, in July of 1994, concerning the inappropriate application of Administration Order No. 4 and a **Negative Rating and Forced Transfer**. Sergeant McKinley received from his Captain. This was a result of an Administrative Order No. 4 interview, conducted after being assigned to West L.A. Division for less than three years.

Administrative Order No. 4 is a 1988 Order which directs commanding officers to interview all sworn employees in their commands who have been in an assignment for five years or more. The order instructs that command officers conduct assessments of the responsibilities of the employee's assignment and the employee's career goals, prospects and promotability. Following the discussion,

The Police Commissioners then questioned the Department's representative as to why Administrative Order No. 4 is still in effect after their 1996 ruling directing the Department to rescind the entire order. The Department



Some take a bite out of crime - VTD Motor Officer Jim Panek takes a bite out of a colossal sandwich.



First came DUI checkpoints. Now we have driver's license checkpoints in L.A. WTD personnel are impounding vehicles operated by unlicensed drivers.

the commanding officer is required to take whatever action is appropriate for the betterment of the Department and the employee. The action may include reassignment within the division, transfer to another division, or keeping the employee in the present assignment. The function of conducting Administrative Order No. 4 interviews is a commanding officer's personal responsibility and shall not be delegated.

Sergeant McKinley's grievance slowly crept through the Department's bureaucratic chain of command and ultimately settled at the Police Commission. The grievance was denied along the way with the Department unwilling to do anything other than support the captain who initiated the actions against Sergeant McKinley.

Sergeant McKinley was patient and willing to permit me to try and settle the matter in his favor. As time passed, I attempted to press the matter forward with little to no cooperation from the Department.

In conducting research, I discovered that both the City Attorney's office and Police Commission ruled in a 1996 Administrative Order No. 4 grievance that it was not uniformly applied throughout the Department and that it should be rescinded by the Department. The City Attorney's office went so far as stating that Administrative Order No. 4 subjected the Department to discrimination lawsuits!

On December 8, 1998, the Police Commission unanimously overturned the Department's groundless rejection of the grievance and granted the entire grievance for Sergeant McKinley.

My appreciation is extended to our five Police Commissioners and Commission staff member Senior Management Analyst Sonja R. Dawson for their collective assistance in resolving this grievance.

If you have been a recent victim of an Administrative Order No. 4 action, please contact me so I can assist you with the matter.

Award-Winning and Successful Community Policing Programs are Being Dismantled by Chief Bernie Parks

The highly-praised bridge-building and productive community policing programs are a thing of the past in the City of Los Angeles. The all-knowing, all-powerful and all-stubborn Chief Bernie Parks has done a hatchet job on another successful award-winning Department program. Effective community policing

manders and field sergeants, is a true recipe for community disaster.

Senior Lead Officers were established to be the direct link with the community. The face behind the badge. The link has worked very well. Watch commanders and sergeants are supervisors charged with the responsibility of supervising the work of officers. In addition, supervisors approve reports, complete investigations, carry out audits and perform a wide variety of other administrative functions required by the Department and the law.

The old saying, "if isn't broke why fix-it," applies here. Mayor Riordan has touted the City's 50% reduction in crime in the past five years in many of his public statements. The credit for this doesn't go to the Chief. It goes to each and every one of you who puts on the badge each and every day and patrols the streets of the City. It goes to the detectives who conduct the follow-up investigations and lo-



The Annual MMOC Christmas Party was another success. Many pretty ladies in attendance.

is now called Community-Based-Government by Chief Parks. The latest change for the LAPD will become a community disaster with only one person to blame, Chief Parks.

In reviewing the Department's change from the former effective community policing programs coordinated by a dedicated corps of Senior Lead Officers, to the current program titled "Ideal Area," managed and organized by watch com-

cate the crooks who flee from the scene of the crime. It goes to our undercover personnel and those who work the traffic divisions. It goes to those who have died in the line of duty including: Steve Gajda, Filbert Cuesta, Jr., and Brian Brown who were all shot to death last year. It goes to all of you, including our Senior Lead Officers who have built strong and effective bridges of cooperation and communications within the diverse and ever-changing and competing communities of Los Angeles.

Neighborhood Watch has worked and community policing has made it work. Community policing has been successful not only in our City but across the entire country. That is part of the reason why crime is down nationally. The bottom line is simple. We have a Chief of Police who thinks he knows everything and is unwilling to accept success instituted by someone else.

I have recently met with many Senior Leads who have dedicated thousands of hours over the years establishing the successful community policing programs. They are saddened by the direction of the Chief. The ultimate losers will be the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Date to Remember

Sunday, February 14th, is Valentine's Day. Remember your loved one on this day of national love.



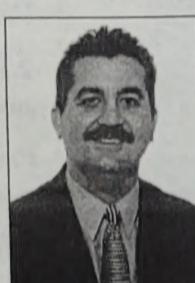
VTD personnel gather for birthday luncheon at Northridge Claim Jumper.

representative stated that the Department is still working on a new order to replace Administrative Order No. 4.

We all know that the Department has a longstanding reputation of moving at a snail's pace when it comes to assisting you with anything positive. Are any of you surprised with the Department's lack of response in rescinding Administrative Order No. 4?

I have referred Sergeant McKinley to one of our panel attorneys to research if he has a claim against the Department for their inappropriate and unjustified action against him.

Sergeant McKinley is very pleased with the resolution of his grievance, even though it took four years and five months to WIN.



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A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

by Hank Hernandez, Attorney at Law



Civil Actions Against Staff and Command Officers

Members frequently ask us for an opinion about possible legal action against staff and command officers for retaliation as a result of negative comments about such members that result in a denial of a promotion or advanced paygrade position. This situation typically arises after a member has filed a grievance, or has opted to appeal a disciplinary suspension to a Board of Rights or to the Superior Court. Members usually attribute negative comments about them as intended to squelch promotions or advancement due to the personal animosity of a staff or command officer for filing a grievance or an appeal of disciplinary action. They feel strongly that the intrusions on their efforts to promote or to advance are not based upon any rational professional assessment of them, but are simply spiteful and retaliatory negative comments.

The question we are normally left with in these situations is: If the evidence will support the actual existence of the actions by a staff or command officer, their malicious quality and their effect to deny a member his/her promotional opportunities, what legal causes of action against these staff or command officers for retaliation are available to them, and will they have a reasonable chance of success?

Negative comments or actions by staff and command officers that are adverse to the interests of rank and file officers normally occur during the scope of employment as defined by California case law. Unfortunately as a result, these staff and command officers enjoy a number of immunities from civil suit even if it can be proven that their conduct was malicious. They are absolutely protected from civil suit under California Government Code section 820.2 (part of the "Tort Claims Act"). This section provides that "a public employee is not liable for an injury resulting from his act or omission where the act or omission was the result of the exercise of the discretion vested in him, whether or not such discretion is abused." While the immunity applies only to "basic policy decisions" by the public employee, case law has interpreted, for example, the decision to institute disciplinary proceedings against a civil service employee as a policy decision entitling one to immunity. *Kemmerer v. Fresno County* (1988) 200 Cal.App.3d 1426, 246 Cal.Rptr. 609. Decisions not to promote would likely receive the same treatment. Similarly, the City as the employer will be immune under Government Code section 815.2(b) if the staff or command officer is immune.

In the "wrongful termination" or wrongful employer-action arena as applied to public employees, certainly

some supervisory activities escape from the immunities as well as from the additional problem of the body of law making workers' compensation the exclusive remedy for public employees who suffer damage, including mental and emotional distress, from the actions of their employers. However, the trend is to allow the immunities of the Tort Claims Act an increasingly greater role in removing liability from supervisors for even malicious actions and those which would be prohibited as, for example, discriminatory by statute. In *Caldwell v. Montoya* (1995) 10 Cal.4th 972, 42 Cal.Rptr.2d 842, the California Supreme Court held that even the Fair Employment and Housing Act (California Government Code section 12900 et seq., "FEHA"), which specifically prohibits employment discrimination by public employers, does not remove the grant of immunity under the Tort Claims Act, which shields public employees for their discretionary acts.

Even without the hurdle of immunities, courts are making it increasingly difficult to sue supervisors and co-workers individually for retaliatory and evil behavior. In *Le Bourgeois v. Fireplace Manufacturers, Inc.* (1998) Daily Journal D.A.R. 12970, in an opinion filed December 22, 1998, the Fourth Appellate District held that private employer supervisory personnel cannot be held individually liable for discrimination under the Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 1201 et seq., and that those supervisors cannot be sued as individuals for wrongful discharge in violation of fundamental public policy where the basis for the suit is discrimination under the FEHA.

In addition, the current state of the law makes it difficult to mount any type of civil action for termination, let alone failure to promote, either in public or private employment. For example, a recent case, *Sheppard v. Freeman* (1998)

67 Cal.App.4th 339, 79 Cal.Rptr.2d 13 which is one of first impression, holds that in private employment co-workers cannot be individually liable for providing false malicious information to the employer who then terminates the employee unless there is a statutory basis for the cause of action. The court held that only the private employer can be responsible. In *Cotran v. Rolling Hudig Hall International, Inc.* (1998) 17 Cal.4th 93, 69 Cal.Rptr.2d 900, the California Supreme Court held that an employer who undertakes a reasonable, good faith investigation of an employee's conduct cannot be held responsible for a decision to terminate him based upon false accusations when that employee has been hired under an implied agreement not to dismiss except for good cause. A later case, *Halvorsen v. Aramark Uniform Services, Inc.* (1998) 65 Cal.App. 4th 1383, 77 Cal.Rptr.2d 383, held that when an employee hired expressly at-will is terminated, the employer need not even conduct a reasonable investigation prior to terminating him and that the manager was not responsible in tort even if he had evil motives and lied to the employer causing it to fire the plaintiff.

On the other hand, certain behavior by public employee supervisors can generate a civil cause of action for a violation of civil rights under 41 U.S.C. 1983. One must be deprived of a right guaranteed by a federal statute or the Constitution under color of law. If the statutory definition is met, supervisors who cause the negative consequence may be protected only by qualified or limited immunity. Although we have attempted to argue the opposite in court, officers may not have a right to a promotion or advancement which trig-

continued on page 13



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WARNING BELLS

by Gary Ingemunson, Attorney at Law

"Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

—John Donne

The Dream Team

There is an open air courtyard outside and to the rear of the brick Bradbury Building at 304 S. Broadway with tables, chairs, and even a couple of trees. It is a comfortable place to sweat. This is where accused officers go while awaiting the decisions of their Boards of Rights. The Bradbury Building is where the Department holds the majority of its Boards of Rights and the deliberation process takes place in the hearing rooms on its fifth floor.

There are two deliberation periods possible in every trial board. The first is after all of the evidence is presented and the Board is deliberating over guilt or innocence. The second will only occur after guilt has been found and character witnesses have testified. This second deliberation period is used by the Board members to determine the penalty. Obviously, it is better not to be required to visit the courtyard more than once per Board.

You are in the courtyard now, but you are not sweating. A gang member has accused you of slapping him during an arrest and the Board is deliberating over your guilt. Of course, the gang member waited two weeks until after criminal charges had been filed against him by the District Attorney before he remembered that you slapped him. His attorney, of course, made him report it. An investigation by Internal Affairs was conducted and since it was a "one on one" and the gang member allegedly told two of his friends the same lie within a week of the incident, they were considered "fresh complaint witnesses," and your captain and the Chief of Police determined that you were guilty. Thus, this Board of Rights.

You stand there among the chairs and tables with confidence and look up at the rear of the Bradbury Building where your Board deliberates your guilt. You feel sure that you will not be here for any second waiting period. Other officers, with typical gallows police humor, have nicknamed this historic brick building with the all too graphic name of the "Bradbury Ovens" because of all the police officers who have been burned here, but you feel that you will not even be singed. Not only are you not guilty, but the League has exceeded your wildest expectations in providing you with a defense.

Your defense team was headed by Attorney Ben Matlock. Matlock's opening and closing arguments were masterpieces of his best homespun style. Matlock had even brought in Perry Mason to cross examine the main witness for the Department, the complaining gang member. The gang member collapsed completely under Mason's cross examination. As expected, he broke down on the stand and tearfully admitted that he was lying to help beat his criminal case. His criminal defense attorney had told him to do it, he confessed. Matlock also had James Bond testify on your behalf. Bond, through his contacts with the CIA, had provided satellite photos of the scene of the arrest. A series of satellite photographs taken at two-second intervals (clear enough to see the number on your badge) was introduced covering the whole arrest period. No photograph showed any kind of physical contact between you and the gang member. To top off your defense, the so-called fresh complaint witnesses decided not to show up

for the Board, both being fugitives with felony warrants.

So, you are relatively relaxed as you and your defense team sip coffee and wait for the Board to ponder the evidence and clear your name. Finally, the word comes down and you head back to the Board room on the fifth floor. When all are gathered, the Chairman of the Board begins to read the findings of the Board into the record. You are stunned to find that you have been found guilty! The rationale is then read and you find that you had never had a chance.

The Board finds that the original story of the complainant is more believable. Some kind of coercion was obviously used to get him to change his story on the stand," the Chairman states. "This is confirmed by the fact that the fresh complaint witnesses were afraid to appear and testify." He adjusts his glasses, "The Board further finds that the two-second gap between photographs from the satellite would easily allow a slap to have occurred between exposures, if done quickly."

You are then instructed to gather your character witnesses and participate in the package review for the penalty phase of your Board of Rights. You will be waiting in the courtyard a second time, after all.

The Con Job

The point of this little story is that if there is no independent review of disciplinary decisions, there is no point in having a Board of Rights system. It will not matter if the League spends a million dollars on your defense. It will not matter if you have the best trained, hardest working, most intelligent, best looking defense representative on the planet. It will not matter how strong your evidence is, or how innocent you are. Nothing will matter, but the Department's need to "appear" to give you due process.

For the Board of Rights system to properly work, the Board members have to feel free that they can arrive at a decision independent of criticism from the Chief. For an accused officer to have faith in the system, he or she has to feel that the defense arguments and evidence presented will be respectfully listened to and considered by the Board in arriving at a determination of guilt. The failure of either, or both, of these factors will take the true "due process" of the Board of Rights procedure off the table. In the last year, the failure of both factors has been noticeable. Honorable Board members still exist and are doing the job they are supposed to do on a daily basis, but the pressure is also increasing on a daily basis.

The word is out. "What part of guilty don't you understand?" That is the message. Captains who have rendered not guilty verdicts have been called in for personal talks with high members of management, including the Chief. Boards have been ordered to reconvene by the Chief to write better rationales where they have found an officer not guilty, or reduced his penalty. (A not so subtle way of saying this was a stupid decision on your part, Mr. Board member, the Chief does not understand it. Explain it one more time) Phone calls have been made from Internal Affairs managers to Board members after not guilty verdicts, asking them what they could have been thinking to render this kind of verdict. Civilians perceived as not being team players have been told they

will be repeatedly struck during the Board selection process by the Department to keep them from sitting as Board members. These are the things we know, the things we don't know are probably ten times as frightening.

An experienced civilian board member was heard to remark that the Board of Rights hearings have degenerated into a "con job." By this, the civilian board member meant that the point of the Board of Rights is no longer to find the truth, but to validate the Chief's decision and, at least, to appear to give a legal semblance of a "fair hearing" to justify due process requirements. This is rare information from one of the persons who sits in those closed decision-making sessions that the accused officer cannot penetrate. The unspoken game is to "con" the officer into believing that he, or she, had a chance to persuade the Board on the question of guilt or innocence, then select the evidence and theory that justifies upholding the discipline. In other words, a *show*, not a hearing.

Now What?

The system is broken. Can it be repaired? Well, even if the Chief changed his mind tomorrow and put out a memo that said he was "just kidding" and there would be no negative impact on truly independent Board decisions, no one would be able to believe it. (What if he is "just kidding" about the memo?) The new City Charter is also going to give the Chief of Police the power to select his deputy chiefs from anyone from the rank of captain or above. He can also demote a deputy chief back down to a captain with no questions asked. That certainly gives a future sworn Board member something to think about just before he or she decides to contradict the Chief's decision on discipline.

Fortunately, the new City Charter can change the Board of Rights system as well as the deputy chief selection proc-

ess. The League is currently trying to find a way to reduce the Department's ability to apply unfair influence to the Board hearing process. More civilian members might be one way. A peer member, a delegate or other League member on the Board may be another. The point is to have a Board that can exercise independent judgment without fear of jeopardizing their careers or financial position.

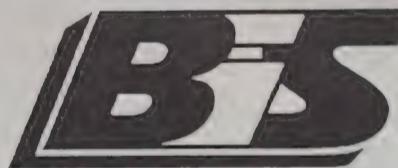
The Chief is fighting this concept with all his might. He has been making personal calls to members of the Charter Reform Commission to not modify the Board of Rights system. The argument being presented is that he needs the power to discipline and terminate officers if he is to be held accountable to the public for his actions as Chief of Police. He wants the ability to get rid of the "bad apples." Chief Parks is sincere about this. Parks is a dedicated, intelligent, politically-connected and hard-working man completely convinced in his vision for L.A.P.D., not to mention being one of the fifty most beautiful people in America.

The irony is that the League *completely agrees* with the Chief's position. The Chief deserves and *must have* the ability to discipline and terminate officers. The League does not want "bad apples" either. So where's the beef? Well, the League just wants to make sure that the Chief doesn't make any mistakes when he terminates an officer or trashes an officer's career. The League believes that the "bad apple" evidence should be laid out on the table so all can see it and agree that it exists. Internal Affairs should be proud of the quality of their investigations that prove misconduct. The investigations should convince *any* reasonable person that an officer is guilty and the Chief is doing the right thing in disciplining or terminating the officer. There

continued on page 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor is a regular feature of *The Thin Blue Line*. Letters may be limited to 350 words or less. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 4 of this issue.

Dear Editor:

This letter is written by a reader of your fine paper, a law abiding citizen, a veteran, to what I consider a family member of the LAPD, a son (proud son) of a great man and officer who was killed in the line of duty.

Not more than 45 minutes ago, on Christmas eve, I received a call from a good friend who stated she just saw a report on the news about my father's cold-blooded killer. She said, "Something to the extent of he's been taken off death row."

Now I'm 24 years of age and have been crying for over a half hour and just returned from a mile-and-a-half run. I've spent 15 Christmases without my father and this one probably ranks up there in the top two.

Words cannot describe my anger, frustration, and mixed emotions I have for our justice system right now, or the convicted suspect who's trying to weasel out of what he got into.

I think the worst thing other than my father's death is the feeling I have that my father's death meant nothing to our justice system. How is it justice when a person kills another and he lives, in fact lives better than a homeless person? How is it justice when he kills in cold blood a police officer, a person sworn to protect and serve the community? Not only that, but when that person was good who would do anything for another person, a good husband, and my dad! Am I the only person who understands this concept?

I know it's been 15 years, and in that time I have not asked for much from the retired and active LAPD officers, from *The Thin Blue Line*, or the LAPD because of the untimely murder of my father, but I ask this one favor from the city in which my dad served. Please, please with all your might and legal means join me and my family in doing everything we can to not let this pred-

ator walk, breathe, or have any freedom off death row.

I thank you for your time.

Bryce A. Verna
A Future LAPD Officer
You Can Bet on That

Hello Lt. Hepburn:

A few weeks back I sent an E-mail to your Webmaster and I said I would be happy for it to be printed somewhere for the officers in your city to read. I am Australian and after seeing LAPD on the television here I decided to come and explore the www to see if there was an actual site for LAPD. Clearly, I found it!

I am so impressed by the site, but as I read this evening the medal of honor section, I felt very pleased to be able to take a glimpse into the lives of such fine officers and the work they do. I know for every officer awarded a medal there are 20 others behind them doing just as well.

Congratulations on your site. In Australia the ability to run sites based on a sponsor scenario would just "not" be possible and in fact officers here cannot speak to the media at all, and I would suspect the notion of a site that allows "entry" (albeit informally) into police operations would be considered with skepticism in our country.

I'm sure your personal role is extremely demanding by the way, but unexpected feedback like this can go some way to letting you know what a fine team you have.

Susan Plunkett
Australia

Dear Editor:

I would like to say thank you to a sergeant who will soon retire from 77th Patrol after 25 years of police work, all of it in a blue suit. That sergeant is Roger Dunning. Those of us who work and have worked 77th Area, have had the pleasure and the honor to work with Roger for a number of years. I can safely say that he is one of the finest members this department has had the honor to have as a member of its ranks. There are many supervisors who have retired who will always be remembered. That list which includes Jack Davenport, Charlie Brown, Jack Hoar, Mike Hulshof and Mike Evers will also include Roger Dunning.

Roger's talents were many, but he excelled as a Defense Representative for officers in internal interviews. He was a tireless and unyielding advocate for the rights of the officer. He did not condone misconduct but always felt that even if someone had made a mistake, however large or small, they deserved no less than the protections that are afforded to every member of this department and guaranteed under the law.

I had the good fortune to work with Roger in 77th Street for many years. To partially quote a phrase from a popular movie: He has always been and shall always be, my friend and respected colleague. Although I know that Roger will be very happy and busy in retirement, the members of this department have lost another "one of the last of the good guys."

Respectfully,
Sgt. Phil Jackson

ANGELS WITH GUNS

(In response to an *L.A. Times* story on the LAPD's special investigation section on 11/29/98, League member Mike Jacobellis authored the following response to that.)

Ever since I started serving as an investigator for lawsuits filed against our S.I.S. members and assisting in their defense, I have heard and seen them labeled as a death squad and as murderers far too many times by so-called civil rights attorneys. These legal adversaries who continuously sue the S.I.S. and attempt to disband them, disgust me. The law-abiding community should rally around the S.I.S. to support and protect them. After all, they are like angels watching over the city.

It has been said by sue happy attorney Stephen Yagman that I know more about the S.I.S. members and their operations and shootings than any other person involved in the pending lawsuits, but that I'm going to take it to my grave. He's right. But let me share with you some things about them.

The S.I.S. detectives are on guard for all of us. These guys minister the spirit of safety so the good can be secure. They remain invisible to the criminal demons until the criminal chooses to commit a crime and take on the angelic choir, and when the singing stops, hopefully the angels are fine and the demons are gone. It is these criminals who rob, kidnap, and murder. They are the ones who should be called death squads and murderers, not the S.I.S. detectives. It is the S.I.S. detectives who rescue children held for ransom, not the kidnapper-turned-plaintiff. It is the S.I.S. who returns your possessions, not the robber-turned-plaintiff. It is the S.I.S. who will protect your life, not the murderer-turned-plaintiff. Yes, sometimes it is the S.I.S. who kills the criminal predator, but only when the criminal presents a dangerous or deadly threat. As a reward for risking their lives and doing their job, the civil rights attorney sues them and calls them assassins with badges. When in fact they should be praised and called "angels with guns."

While patrol is often referred to as the backbone of our police department, the S.I.S. should be recognized as the heart and soul. They are the ones in the "ball-game in the bottom of the ninth, with everything on the line" and they have consistently been successful through the years. Finally, my message to any criminal predator is: "If you prey in L.A., pray the S.I.S. will be there to respond to your evil actions."

Sincerely,
LAPD Det. Mike Jacobellis

Dear Editor:

Once again I'm amazed at what I have read this morning in the *Times*. Are we on another planet as it relates to the Los Angeles Police Department belonging to the taxpaying citizens of Los Angeles and not to Chief Parks? Why is it so hard to understand this Department cannot be run in the same manner it was when he was a young member of the Department.

Parks should also recognize that most of our past managers are the direct reasons we are even dealing with the amount of changes being introduced. Based upon the quotes from him that have been printed, truly por-

END OF WATCH



NAME: Donald R. Benter #11055
RANK: Sergeant I
ASSIGNED TO: Communications
BORN: August 9, 1937
APPT: April 30, 1962
RETIRED: July 2, 1982
DIED: October 17, 1998

★ ★ ★

NAME: John T. Geddes #6152
RANK: Sergeant I
ASSIGNED TO: Juvenile Hollywood
BORN: January 17, 1925
APPT: March 16, 1949
RETIRED: April 2, 1964
DIED: December 10, 1998

★ ★ ★

NAME: John K. Cundiff #30754
RANK: Police Officer II
ASSIGNED TO: Newton
BORN: February 6, 1970
APPT: March 21, 1994
ACTIVE
DIED: December 13, 1998

★ ★ ★

NAME: Victor M. Guzman #14537
RANK: Lieutenant II
ASSIGNED TO: Southeast
BORN: August 6, 1940
APPT: October 6, 1968
ACTIVE
DIED: December 19, 1998

★ ★ ★

NAME: Wesley W. Bright #27968
RANK: Sergeant I
ASSIGNED TO: Van Nuys
BORN: December 12, 1967
APPT: October 9, 1990
ACTIVE
DIED: December 25, 1998

★ ★ ★

NAME: Leland R. Schmidt #4080
RANK: Policeman
ASSIGNED TO: Pacific
BORN: October 20, 1917
APPT: October 16, 1946
RETIRED: November 18, 1967
DIED: December 26, 1998

★ ★ ★

NAME: Gerard Wootters #2395
RANK: Sergeant I
ASSIGNED TO: Jail
BORN: October 14, 1917
APPT: April 10, 1941
RETIRED: April 11, 1964
DIED: December 26, 1998

★ ★ ★

NAME: Donald W. Benn #3251
RANK: Policeman
ASSIGNED TO: Central
BORN: March 27, 1913
APPT: March 25, 1946
RETIRED: August 1, 1967
DIED: December 27, 1998

★ ★ ★

NAME: Leo J. Martin #5389
RANK: Policeman
ASSIGNED TO: TED
BORN: January 8, 1926
APPT: February 16, 1948
RETIRED: April 23, 1968
DIED: December 27, 1998

★ ★ ★

NAME: James L. Mulvihill #4846
RANK: Policeman
ASSIGNED TO: Hollenbeck
BORN: December 15, 1918
APPT: August 1, 1947
RETIRED: November 30, 1967
DIED: January 2, 1999

★ ★ ★

NAME: Ray Jauregui #7014
RANK: Investigator I
ASSIGNED TO: Rampart
BORN: January 30, 1925
APPT: January 15, 1953
RETIRED: December 23, 1974
DIED: January 4, 1999

★ ★ ★

NAME: George Shanahan #6278
RANK: Policeman
ASSIGNED TO: Training
BORN: May 5, 1925
APPT: May 1, 1949
RETIRED: January 1, 1960
DIED: January 10, 1999

❖

Hernandez

continued from page 10

fers the due process protections under the United States Constitution. One could try to make the argument that a liberty interest under the First Amendment has been impaired, however, a staff or command officer would have to be a policy-making employee within the definition of 42 U.S.C. 1983 to make the City responsible for his/her actions. Even under this argument however, a staff or command officer would probably be entitled to at least a qualifi-

fied immunity for his/her actions as long as he/she had a reasonable belief as a supervisor that the law was not clearly-established that refusal to promote or to grant a paygrade position violated an officer's protected interest. Affected officers would need to set forth violations of clearly established law which reasonable officials would not have believed were lawful to defeat the immunity.

Given all the above, we believe that civil suits against staff or command officers for retaliation are extremely difficult ones to mount and prevail.

Letters to the Editor

continued from page 12

trays his level of arrogance. If he wants total control and the final word, he should design a ballot measure that would turn the Chief's position into an elected one similar to the Sheriffs.

Until that happens, he should remain silent and accept the changes that are proposed. For example, he has taken issue with the fact a proposal has been made to allow the Inspector General the power to offer immunity in exchange for testimony, or for the Inspector General to be able to offer confidentiality to any complainant or witness.

Well, just think about the recent incidents that have occurred in Rampart and how if officers didn't have to worry about some type of retaliation occurring maybe someone would have laid those guys out before it got out of control.

What's the difference between an anonymous letter being sent to IAD

alleging misconduct about an officer versus providing a place to make a complaint in person without fear. Accountability applies to everyone but him it seems. He is the only person that can be trusted to do the right thing. Sounds like an imminent threat is making him uncomfortable. Well, I think all our members welcome a system where he will be exposed to his own harsh disciplinary system.

Bottom line is he is just a "Cop" that has the responsibility to manage our agency. I strongly support the Inspector General's position and we should do everything in our power to ensure that position gets the power it needs to be effective. And if everyone does what they are supposed to, the Inspector General poses no threat to anyone.

(Name Withheld for Obvious Reasons - Name on file with the Editor.)

Ingemunson

continued from page 11

should be no need, nor any desire, for biased hearing officers.

If things continue along the path we are now going, the Board of Rights manual can be vastly simplified. Instead of the many rules now scattered throughout its pages designed to make the hearing fair, only two rules need be written.

RULE NUMBER ONE: The Chief's disciplinary decisions are always correct.

RULE NUMBER TWO: When the Chief's disciplinary decisions are incorrect, see Rule Number One.

This country was founded on the "checks and balances" system. That is why the possibility of justice is so much greater in this country than anywhere else on earth. The Department should not fear independent review of its disciplinary system. To create an organization that believes in justice, its leaders must be just. The just have nothing to fear from an independent system of review. On the other hand, when an internally controlled system is demanded by the Department and the concern for a fair hearing is

viewed as subversive, what does this say about the confidence the Chief has in the justice of his disciplinary decisions?

It says he should hear *warning bells*. The League will not rest until its members can have faith in a system of truly independent review. Whether through City Charter change, or lawsuits, the League *must* win this battle. Not to protect "bad apples," but to make sure that the apple has been correctly labeled.

This problem is not new in American history.

"The judicial power ought to be distinct from both the legislative and executive, and independent upon both, that so it may be a check upon both, as both should be checks upon that." *John Adams in Thoughts on Government [1776]*

The judicial nature of the Boards of Rights needs to have its independence protected from the executive power of the Chief of Police. We will all profit from wisdom that has stood firm in the test of time for over two hundred years.

In the meantime.....
Be legally careful out there.

Hepburn

continued from front cover

defense representatives, forcing officers to pay for their own defense. Only the League has been in Sacramento to represent Los Angeles Police Officers, where they fought for the original Peace Officers Bill of Rights, and all of the enhancements that have been added over the years, including last year. Only the League is there to provide attorneys when necessary at Boards of Rights, and only the League is there to go to court to file writs when officers are treated unfairly at Boards of Rights. Only the League does those things for Los Angeles Police Officers. Why anyone purport-

ing to represent officers would feel it necessary to meddle in the process at this point is incomprehensible.

All that aside, as of this writing there still seems to be considerable support for our proposal, and by the time this is published, the issue probably will have been resolved by the Commission. Once that and other final issues are resolved, there will be an attempt to arrive at a compromise with the Appointed Charter Commission to place one Charter before the voters in June. It's anyone's guess whether that process will succeed, but the League will be there to ensure the interests of our members are protected.

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD SALUTES OUR LOCAL HEROES!

To thank all Law Enforcement and 911 Personnel, we're giving each and every one of you
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Imagine riding to the moon with **E.T.**, or seeing a live sea war in **WaterWorld**. Have your worst nightmare come true when a man-eating T-Rex attacks you on **Jurassic Park-The Ride**.

So, to all those men and women who work so hard to save our lives every day, we would like to say "thank you" and invite you to be treated like a star at Universal Studios Hollywood!



*This offer applies to all Law Enforcement and Emergency Personnel agency employees. Presentation of current Badge or current Official Department Photo Identification is required at Ticket Booth. Open 7 days. For operating hours please call (818) 699-3801. Not valid for separately ticketed events or at Universal Studios Florida. Cannot be combined with other offers or per capita sightseeing tours. Prices and park hours subject to change without notice. No exchanges or refunds. Parking \$17.00 per car/\$8.00 per RV. There are height requirements for some rides. E.T. Adventure® Universal Studios and Amblin® Entertainment, Inc. Back To The Future TM©1999 Universal Studios, Inc. Nickelodeon ©1999 Viacom International, Inc. Jurassic Park™ & ©1999 Universal Studios, Inc. and Amblin® Entertainment, Inc. ©1999 Universal Studios. All rights reserved. 99-JWSC-1

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For Your Information is a regular feature of *The Thin Blue Line*. We encourage you to submit articles for publication. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 4 of this issue.

Men Needed to Serve as Big Brothers to Children in Their Communities

Do you enjoy going to ball games, watching movies or riding bikes? What about playing computer games, reading books or just talking? In short, are you a "kid at heart?"

Catholic Big Brothers matches people like you to fatherless youth of all faiths who need a positive adult influence in their lives.

Big Brothers make a difference in the life of a child just by spending a few hours each week with their Little Brothers or Sisters. This quality time can include special outings or simply time spent together talking. Many of the activities you already do, from shopping to gardening, can be more fun when you include a child who is eager for your attention.

The children who need your friendship and guidance are between the ages of seven and fourteen and live in communities throughout Los Angeles County. More than 200 children are currently on the waiting list, hoping that a Big Brother soon becomes available. For more information about how you can fill this need, call (800) 463-4066.

Founded in 1925, Catholic Big Brothers is a non-profit organization that serves volunteers and children of all faiths, with offices in central and west Los Angeles, Lakewood and the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys.

Catholic Big Brothers is affiliated with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and the United Way.

Los Angeles Police Protective League Announces 16th Annual Scholarship Awards Program

The Los Angeles Police Protective League is proud to announce the Sixteenth Annual Scholarship Awards Program which is open to college-bound dependents of LAPPL members, both active and retired, who have held continuous membership in the League for more than one year prior to the dependent's application. Nearly \$10,000 in scholarships will be awarded. To qualify:

An applicant must be a 1999 school graduate with a "C" average or better.

The candidate will be judged on his/her scholastic record and extracurricular activities. If qualified to compete, the candidate will be invited to the essay portion of the Scholarship Awards Program.

The essay will be administered in the Los Angeles area, tentatively scheduled for March 27, 1999. The essay portion will be administered only on one day, at one time and at one location. Applicants must appear in person on that date and time. There are no exceptions.

The Scholarship finalists will be selected by the League Scholarship Committee and the awards will be presented in the Spring of 1999.

This is a unique opportunity for the dependents of LAPPL members to earn scholarship assistance for the 1999 Fall college semester. The awards are based on the ability to analyze the essay question and then to respond to it in writing.

If you would like to be considered, please complete the form below and mail to the League office which is located at 1308 West Eighth Street, Fourth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017. You may also pick up an application at the League office or request an application by telephone at 213-251-4554 or send E-mail to LAPPL@AOL.COM

Applications must be received at the League office by Friday, March 5, 1999.

Very truly yours,

Gary Fullerton, Chairman
Scholarship Committee

Request for Scholarship Application

Scholarship Applications must be returned to the League no later than March 5, 1999. Applications received after that date will be returned.

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: () _____

Name and Assignment of League member who qualifies you as a scholarship applicant: _____

Serial No.: _____

Work Telephone No.: _____

Retired: _____ Active: _____

Your relationship to the League member who qualifies you as a scholarship applicant: _____

NOTE:

This is not a scholarship application. It is a request form only.

Applications must be obtained from the League Office at 1308 West 8th Street, Fourth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017

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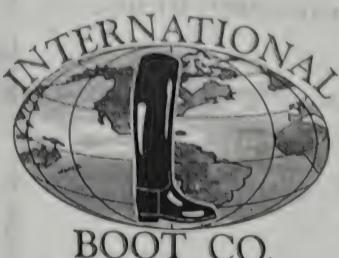
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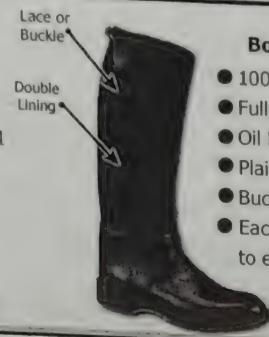
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International Police Association - US Section (IPA)

The IPA, founded in England in 1950, is a fraternal organization of active and retired members of the law enforcement profession throughout the world. IPA's mission is strictly cultural, social, and recreational and is reflected in its motto, *Service through Friendship*. IPA does not take part in any matter of departmental policy, discipline, or labor activity. Membership now includes 276,668 officers in 61 nations throughout the world. The US Section was founded in 1962 and now includes 54 Regions with over 10,000 members.

The IPA creates an opportunity for cultural exchange and contacts on a local, national and international level. IPA members host visiting IPA members and their families throughout the world. Youth gatherings and exchange programs hosted by IPA members assure participating families that their children

are under the watchful eye of another officer while experiencing the culture of another land. Hobby groups, local social activities, and group trips are a few of the benefits of membership. *The National Reporter* is the quarterly publication of the IPA-US Section.

Current National Officers include: James Cain, President, Highland Ranch, CO; Mike Lynch, 1st Vice President, Auburn, CA; Oscar Vance, 2nd Vice President, Norristown, PA; Ron Boerst, 3rd Vice President, Miami, FL; Kenneth Davis, Secretary General, Redwood City, CA; Thomas Ciurlik, Treasurer, Cudahy, WI; Dona Wilson, Assistant Secretary General, Richmond, CA; and Ivy Childers, Recording Secretary, Oakley, CA.

For more information, visit www.ipausa.org.



Career Development News

by Sylvia Landis
LAPD Career Counselor

The Career Development Centers have many materials for candidates beginning to study for the Sergeant examination. Although the test date has not been set, the last examination was held on May 31, 1997 and examinations are normally scheduled approximately two years from the last test date. The Centers update their collection of study materials on a regular basis and maintain the most current Training Bulletins, Legal Bulletins, Notices, Orders, and Manuals. The Centers recently added the new volumes of the Tactical Manual which include the *Supervisor's Field Operations Guide* and the *Guidelines for Crowd Management and Crowd Control*. Additional volumes will be added as they are published. The Centers also have the new *Juvenile Procedures Manual*. The Centers also have extensive materials on special topics including general topics for supervision such as affirmative action,

discipline, and use of force, as well as timely topics such as FASTRAC and SARA.

Officers studying for the Police Officer III examination may obtain materials from the Career Development Centers. A new test date for Police Officer III is expected to be announced sometime in late spring.

Career development information is available to all LAPD employees through several resources. You may call or stop by the Career Development Centers at Lake Street (downtown) or Westchester (near the airport). You will also find updated information listed in the *Weekly Consolidated Notice* and on the 24-hour Career hotline. Career development information may be obtained by calling the following numbers: Lake Street at (213) 207-3000 (also the hotline), 3001, or Westchester at (310) 342-3172, 3118. The Career Development Centers are located at 227 N. Lake Street, Los Angeles or 5651 W. Manchester, Westchester.



A Gathering of LAPD Christians

SATURDAY EVENING
March 6, 1999 at 6:00 P.M.



OVERCOMERS CHURCH
8726 Haskell Avenue
North Hills, CA
(South of 118 Freeway at Haskell)



~MUTUAL FAITH MINISTRIES SPEAKERS~

† Keith Hershey
† Marsha Feuser

~SPECIAL L.A.P.D. SPEAKERS~

~OVERCOMERS MUSIC WORSHIP TEAM~

Support L.A.P.D. Family ~Fellowship ~Pray

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Committed ~The Curious ~ The Concerned
Light Refreshments Served

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL

Sgt. Ron Batesole (213) 485-2276 or Ofcr. Ken Crawford (213) 485-4022

Police Deaths Remain High Despite Drop In Crime Rate

According to figures released this week, there has been another dramatic drop in the nation's crime rate. However, despite this good news, the number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty does not reflect this substantial reprieve from crime.

There were 155 federal, state and local law enforcement fatalities during 1998, compared to 160 during 1997, according to preliminary figures released today by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS).

The FBI has reported that crime has been on a steady decline throughout our country since 1992. There was a nearly 7 percent decrease in the number of serious crimes reported from 1996 to 1997, which is in stark contrast to the more than 20 percent increase in police deaths experienced during that same period. Just two weeks ago, the FBI announced that the nation's crime rate dropped another 5 percent during the first half of 1998.

"Our courageous crime fighters appear to be winning the war, but at considerable cost," declared NLEOMF Chairman Craig W. Floyd. "Since crime began its steady downward slide in 1992, more than 1,100 federal, state and local law enforcement officers have lost their lives in the performance of duty. That averages out to 158 police deaths each year, or one officer killed somewhere in America roughly every 54 hours," he reported.

For the fifth straight year, **California** was the deadliest state in the nation for the law enforcement profession, with 17 police fatalities. California was followed by Florida with 13 line of duty deaths, Texas with 8, and Arkansas, Indiana and Virginia with 7 each. The U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico also suffered 7 law enforcement fatalities in 1998, and there were 18 federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Twelve of the officers killed in 1998 were women, the most ever recorded in a single year. There were 5 female officers killed in 1997.

Of the 155 officers who died in 1998, 63 of the officers were shot to death, 44 died in automobile accidents, 15 were struck by vehicles, 10 drowned, 9 suc-

cumbed to job-related illnesses, 4 died in motorcycle accidents, 4 were killed in aircraft accidents, 2 died in falls, 1 officer was beaten to death, 1 was killed in a bomb-related incident, 1 officer was struck and killed by a train, and 1 died in a boating accident. On average, the officers who died during the past year were 39 years old and had served in law enforcement for nearly 12 years.

"The two police deaths at the U.S. Capitol earlier this year presented our nation with the shocking reality of what it means to be a law enforcement officer," said COPS President Debbie Geary. "People need to understand that the courage and heroism displayed at the U.S. Capitol on July 24th is typical of what occurs every day at law enforcement agencies across the country. Our nation's officers die on rural roadways, on the doorsteps of troubled families' homes, and in the dark, dingy alleys. These sacrifices are all selfless and supreme."

"A greater number of law enforcement officers doing a better job than ever before is the major reason for the drop in our nation's crime rate," Floyd said. "But, unfortunately, that also means more officers in harm's way. We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude."

Number Of Law Enforcement Officers Killed During Past 10 Years

Year	Officers Killed
1989	192
1990	152
1991	148
1992	157
1993	153
1994	169
1995	170
1996	132
1997	160
1998	155
Total	1588

Source: National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

"Looking Back... Camp Valcrest"

by Gail Coutts

Part II of Two-Part Series

The Gitt children loved mixing with the new kids every week. They participated in most of the activities and were honored to be initiated into the special DAP group called OSO. For acceptance, wannabes had to wear a large onion on a string around their neck all day. At the end of the day, the onion (or sometimes a potato) had to be consumed raw. Then, they were allowed on the hallowed OSO rock. The Gitt kids went through the initiation process many times with the different groups.

The camp received many visits from city officials, such as Mayor Bowron and Chief William H. Parker and some of the brass would bring their children for the day. One high ranking officer wanted Don to straighten out his teenage son and got him a job working there for the summer. He ordered Officer Gitt to pound some sense into the boy's head and under no circumstances to allow him to leave the grounds. This teenager's assignment was to work for Sgt. Bud Stang at the swimming pool and to keep it vacuumed and scrubbed. However, he organized a crew of DAP boys to do the work and was barking orders from the diving board when he was caught. Most of the time he was allowed to eat with the law enforcement staff at the reserved tables in the lodge. But when he became too much to tolerate, he was sent to eat with the DAP kids, a major disgrace.

Sgt. Stang had to go down the hill in a city car and left his Alfa-Romeo on the premises. He told Don to supervise the teen and make sure that he did not drive his car. Shortly after Bud left, the

teenager was riding around the grounds and sped out the front gate. To teach him a lesson, Don padlocked the cable across the entrance. The teen begged and pleaded to be let back in before Officer Stang caught him. He must have straightened out somewhat because he later became an L.A. policeman and an attorney. He and Don had many laughs over his youthful transgressions at the camp.

On another occasion, Capt. Peter Hagan brought his seven red-haired children up for the day. Six-year-old Johnny Gitt took the only boy for a hike. When Don rang the enormous bell that meant everyone should come in. The Hagan boy decided that he knew a better way than John did. When John showed up without the Captain's son there was panic. The boy eventually found the road and was returned to camp by a passing motorist.

One of the most interesting "guests" was the main witness in the prosecution of gangster, Mickey Cohen. LAPD officers with machine guns guarded him around the clock and brought him up from the city every day after court. Don described him as an ordinary looking guy who talked about shopping at Sears with his kids.

The department decided that a second 20,000 gallon water tank was needed. The first tank was filled by policemen who drove the tank truck up to the state prison. Each load held 1,500 gallons so many trips were required. The second tank was going to be filled with a nearby spring but the land had to be leveled. This was the closest that the trustees came to feel like prisoners. Officer Gitt used them to break up and remove the rocks but he soon came up with a much better idea. He obtained

dynamite from the prison, and with some rudimentary instructions, proceeded to drill holes in the rock face. The power of the first explosion sent a fifty-pound rock over the concrete block building housing the generators and made a big dent on the hood of the Power Wagon. Patty recalls being allowed on a couple of occasions to connect the second set of wires thereby detonating the blasts. She and her dad would run to safety in the generator house. Her mother would become furious when the rocks and dust would be flying while she was hanging clothes on the line with Johnny in a basket on the ground. In his own words, Don became "half-way efficient" in the use of dynamite but one of his concerns was that he never knew if all of the sticks had ignited. One day he was shocked to hear a smaller explosion at the site he had just left and was grateful that no trustees had been on the site.

On occasion, Marge would use the two-way radio to check in or to relay a message for her husband. Once, the radio telephone operator told her she was breaking up and to change her location. The mystified RTO heard the reply, "No can do."

The summer was divided between boys and girls and they alternated every two weeks. Horses were rented from Newcomb's Ranch down the road. There were skits and plays and scary stories at the fire ring for Spook Night. The city kids were fearful as unfamiliar noises came from the darkness as they returned to their cabins. A popular guest was the Park Ranger who would milk the venom from a rattlesnake in front of the wide-eyed children. In the winter, both boys and girls came up for the weekends. There were over 100 sleds and the counselors thought it was important that each child have their own sled. The rule was they had to promise to bring the platform back up the hill. There was dancing in the lodge and the smallest Gitt children recall sitting on the laps of the sophisticated teenage girls wearing flared skirts while 45 records played.

Policewoman Sgt. Sydney Ball was in charge of the DAP program and supervised the divisional coordinators and inter-division sports. Don admired her administrative skills. According to him, the kids were not delinquent but were problem kids who needed guidance and mentors. Frank Wissman was the coordinator at the camp and was aided by Officer Traver Simpson and Officer Shinbane. Officer Burr was in charge of the DAP Marching Band and Officer Gitt proudly recalled that on a couple of occasions they marched in the Rose Parade.

Occasionally, the Gitts would visit their cousins, the Jake Lomkins, at the LAPD farm in Newhall (now Biscailuz Center). Officers Lomkin and Gitt surely had two of the most unusual jobs on the force. Officer Lomkin's produce didn't supply Camp Valcrest, however, it went to the jail system. Most of Valcrest's food came from federal government surplus. They would receive 100 cases of butter, 100 turkeys, hams, beans and cheeses and more bananas than all the DAPS could eat. Sometimes, Gitt family parties would be organized and his wife's numerous relatives would drive up from the city. In a particularly bad snowstorm, the California Highway Patrol was turning people back at La Cañada. When one cousin came up with what he thought was a novel excuse for being allowed through, the officer said, "Geez, I never knew a guy with so many brothers."

Patty used to look up at the stars and moon in the brilliant sky and think she lived in the most beautiful place on earth. She hoped never to leave but in 1957 Valcrest was transferred to the Department of Parks and Recreation and Don's six-year stint at the camp ended. After a couple of months back at the juvenile jail, he was sent to the Academy firing range where he was in charge of maintenance. The Academy Café was his next assignment and lasted until his retirement in 1971. He was the man to see for retirement parties and meetings. At first he supervised trustees at the cafe and later their positions were filled by illegal aliens. Sometimes his good workers would get deported and be back within a few days, just like the trustees at Valcrest. He was a good boss to work for and treated them with respect. Don retired in 1971 and worked for DeAnza Corporation managing RV and mobile home parks for eleven years. He now lives in Penn Valley, California, with his second wife, Dottie.

Looking back, he thought Camp Valcrest was a great place to raise his children, but it certainly wasn't what he had envisioned for his law enforcement career. His kids enjoyed their one-room schoolhouse up the road and the freedom of the outdoors. They all became good skiers and in the summer they had an Olympic size pool in which to swim. The family always had deer in the freezer and the extended family loved to gather there on the weekends. Don recently mused that he never knew how many kids were saved and became good citizens but he was proud of LAPD and the efforts the department made in a time when just a little attention paid to troubled kids could turn them around.

(Sources: the Gitt family.)

Peace Officers for Christ Int's, Inland Empire Dinner Banquet

LOCATION:

Harvest Christian Fellowship, 6115 Arlington Ave., Riverside

DATE: March 20, 1999

TIME: 1830 social hour / 1900 dinner

SPEAKER: Pastor Steve Ballinger / MUSIC: Danielle Price

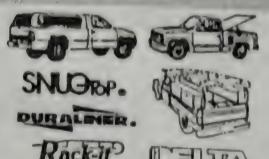
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1998 Pension and Deferred Compensation Update

by Fred Tredy,
Pension Representative

Deferred Compensation

1998 was a very productive year for the Deferred Compensation Board and Staff. In 1999 federal law required that all deferred compensation programs were to be placed into a "Trust" for the sole and exclusive ownership of the employees. As you may remember up to this time, the City owned all deferred compensation monies. Due to excellent lobbying by employee unions in Washington, D.C., legislation was passed, and now the monies will be transferred from the City to the employees. Your Deferred Compensation Board is made up of seven (7) members. One member is from each one of the elected Pension Boards: (1) Fire and Police Pension Board, which I serve as your representative, (1) member from CERS Board, (1) member from the DWP Retirement Board, (1) Organized Labor Representative, the City Treasurer, the General Manager of the Personnel Department and (1) retired member elected by the Deferred Compensation Board. There was a considerable amount of controversy over who would be the "Trustees" of our money. Your Deferred Compensation Board put in a proposal to be trustee, however the City Council also wanted to be trustee. Your Board worked out language, which was acceptable to City Council. The language established the Deferred Compensation Board as your "Trustee." City Council voted and approved the ordinance. Only one member of the City Council voted against the proposal. I won't go into who it was or why he voted the way he did, in this article, however if you would like more details of the vote, I will be available for inquiries.

What does this mean to you? Your present investment choices will basically remain the same. You will still be able to invest in all the options we presently have, with a few additional ones. The difference will be that the administrator of each investment category will be selected separately. These administrators are presently competing in each one of these categories.

How will you benefit by this? The Deferred Compensation Board has gone out to a Request for Price, (RFP) for each investment group. We have had over forty companies, which have bid on these categories. We now have the ability to analyze each administrator's fee structure, investment history, reference checks, number of trained representatives, security systems, etc. We now have the ability not only to select the best investment options for you but also the ability to negotiate and select the best rates and fees structure. Our present administrators, Hartford and Washington Mutual, will remain. If you currently have money with them you will have the option to leave your money there, and

continue your investment. Hartford has not entered the RFP for a new contract, but Washington Mutual is bidding. When the new structure is developed I would strongly suggest that you examine what your investment options presently are and how much you are paying for those investments. Hartford has lowered its fees for certain investments and has eliminated the transfer penalty.

We will still have two separate investment administrator grouping categories. One administrator will be in charge of keeping the books, education and training, and a window option. This window option will allow the more knowledgeable employee to invest in specific stocks or investments. So, if you wanted to invest in Amazon.com, or IBM you will be able to accomplish that. The other administrator category will have all of your other investment groupings: stocks, bonds, international investments, etc.

So you can see that in 1999 we will have more investment options at lower fees with individually-selected companies. This, on top of the fact that the money will be in a trust and not accessible by any one except the members of the trust. So you can see that your Board has been very busy in 1998. The program had not been significantly changed since its inception in 1983 until now.

Just a reminder that the only way to withdraw your deferred compensation monies prior to either retirement, separation, or death, is through a hardship. The hardship, according to IRS regulations has to be unbudgetable and unforeseeable. If you have any questions regarding the parameters of the hardship withdrawal you can contact the Deferred Compensation Staff at (213) 485-5168.

Pensions

There was a Charter Change passed November of 1998, which will allow modification of our pension benefits. It is a small change but significant enough to affect a specific portion of our membership. The change has to do with eligibility for "domestic partners," to be qualified for pension benefits. The Charter Amendment that was passed will allow the City Council to establish an ordinance, which will specify how the benefits will be implemented. This should be retroactive to the date that the ordinance is passed. There is currently a City Ordinance that specifies the language for a qualifying domestic partner for medical benefits in the City. It would seem like a very easy chore to mirror that language into this ordinance. But this will be accomplished in early 1999.

If you have any questions, I work Hollywood Patrol, PM watch at 485-4302 or my pager is (818) 607-8775. I am also at the Fire and Police Pension Board meetings every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday of the month and at the Deferred Compensation Board Meeting on the last Tuesday of the month.

Poet's Corner

Retirement is Only the Beginning

by Kemp C. Fairbanks III, #24113

There once was a Policeman with hair of gray

We all thought he was here to stay

But alas, as is the way of all good things,

His time came to an end

Sad though we all may be

It is only through his smile

And steely eyes of blue

That we see his dreams coming true

More than once I have looked for examples of great men

Emulate them I have tried

My father & father-in-law an old Colonel in the army too

But when it comes to Cops? There are few

Someday, many, many, many years from now

in the biggest roll call of all

On silver clouds, we will sit in rows of blue,

quietly listening as

Chief Smith reads off the bureaucrats
whose heads are about to roll

Till that day, we will quote him,

Emulate and miss him

Him and that evil, knowing grin

Jeffery Smith, #20518, is a legend in many eyes

He is a gentleman and a great street Cop

And as you can see, He is the Cop I'd like to be



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VETERAN'S CORNER



Veteran's Corner is a regular feature of *The Thin Blue Line*. We encourage you to submit articles for publication. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 4 of this issue.

American Legion News

Commander Gail Tam, 381

Meeting: 3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm - Panorama City Post #817
13553 Reedley Avenue Panorama City, CA 91402 (818) 781-2261

Adjutant Frank Ortiz 160 N. Glendora Avenue Covina, CA 91724 Hm: (626) 331-4271



17th District's Annual Party for Disabled Veterans

We hope that everyone had a very happy and special holiday season. It was a special day for the Police Post members who actively supported the 17th District's disabled veterans party. This party was given to provide Christmas cheer to our hospitalized comrades. The party was held at the Wadsworth Veteran's Administration Hospital, West Los Angeles, on Saturday, December 12. We had over 150 hospitalized veterans as guests. These veterans were unable to leave the hospital for the holidays because of their disabilities.

I was happy to see Mark Gerin, Charley & Arlene Meter, Frank & Mary Flores, Richard & Vicki Ranck, and my wife Kathryn Tam there to represent Police Post. We also had five other posts within 17th District participate. Coffee, punch, and sandwiches were provided, along with caroling music and Bingo with prizes. Gifts were also given to these disabled veterans.

Art & Peggy Grenci, from Van Nuys Division, responded to our call for assistance and appeared with their certified therapy dog Sonny. They were a great success. Art's cousin Mor Geoghegan, who is currently in our Police Academy, Class 10-98, also came to help. I am especially pleased with the efforts of our Police Post and especially Mark Gerin in supporting this worthwhile event. Our Post raised over \$1,241 in donations for this event. Frank Flores, 17th District Commander, was thankful and congratulated Police Post and Mark Gerin for spearheading the veterans party.

Legion Calendar, Upcoming Events

Our next Post meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th to honor our wives. Join us and bring your wife. Charley Meter started this tradition. It is a way of saying thanks for everything that our wives do to support our activities with the American Legion. It was felt that February was the appropriate month because of Valentine's

Day. By the way, *do not forget that Valentine's Day is on February 14*. We have a social hour that starts at 1830 hours. We serve an excellent dinner for a \$5 donation, but the wives' dinner is on us. Please come and bring another veteran with you. For information on the meeting location, see the top of this article.

Fly Our Flag

Fly the flag every day to show your support for the Flag Amendment. If you cannot fly our flag every day, then do it on Presidents' Day, February 15th.

Welcome Recruit Class #12-98

On December 21, Marty Chalupa and his 8-year-old son Mat recruited 8 out of 8 new cadets. They served as follows: 4 (USMC), 3 (USA), and 1 (USCG). Our new members are John Banuelos (USMC), Aaron Echols (USA), Travis Smith (USCG), Rocquel Galvan (USA), Paul Yoon (USA), Jeffrey Johnson (USMC), James Leone (USMC), and Julio Mendez (USMC). Sam Hancock (USAF), from Foothill Division, also joined this period. We welcome you all to our 2100+ membership and we thank each of you for your support. When you get the opportunity, come to our monthly meeting. We look forward to greeting each of you in person.

National Cemetery Benefits are Available

If a veteran wishes to be buried in a national cemetery the veteran will have to communicate his wishes to the family. Gravesites cannot be reserved before death. When the veteran dies, the family should notify the national cemetery to start the process.

Eligibility must be established. Eligible veterans are: any member of the U.S. armed forces who died on active duty; a veteran whose discharge is for anything but dishonorable; and the spouse, widow/widower, and minor children of an eligible active duty member or veteran.

The veteran's name, rank, serial, social security and V.A. claim numbers, date and place of birth and date of death must be

provided to cemetery personnel. A copy of the veteran's official discharge document or DD214 should be furnished. If this paperwork is not on hand, family members may ask the National Cemetery System (NCS) to check with the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

The NCS then offers burial benefits to assist in the interment. Benefits include gravesite headstone or markers, opening and closing the gravesite and perpetual care. These benefits are provided at no charge to the family. Headstones are inscribed with the deceased's name, branch of service, year of birth and year of death.

Veterans not buried in a national cemetery are still entitled to the government headstone. Next of kin must apply for the marker through the V.A. Opening and closing of the gravesites are also provided at no charge. Perpetual care of the gravesite is part of the NCS mission. The second part of the mission is to maintain the national cemeteries in national shrines.

U.S. flags are provided for burial in a national, state or post cemetery, but requests must be made for burials in a private cemetery. Eligibility must be established by calling the V.A. regional office at (800) 827-1000 and filing.

Finally, families can receive a Presidential Memorial Certificate and engraved certificate signed by the president to honor the veteran's service. Requests can be made through any V.A. regional office, or by writing to: Memorial Programs Service (403A), National Cemetery System, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Additional information about national cemetery burials can be obtained by writing to: National Cemetery System, see above, or on the Internet at www.va.gov/cemetery/index.htm.

Notifications

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me (Gail Tam) at (805) 498-2712.

(Editor's note: Thanks to Gail Tam and American Legion Police Post #381 for always providing solid and helpful information.)

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER

The *Divisional Reporter* is a regular feature of *The Thin Blue Line*. Divisional Reporters may submit one report per Division for publication. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 4 of this issue.



by Maria Marquez
77th Street

Welcome Back, Sir

77th Street Area welcomes back Captain **Paul Enox**. Capt. Enox is the commanding officer of our Operation Support Division. Last tour here, Capt. Enox was a sergeant, and we hope that your stay here as a captain is as fun as it was as a sergeant. Welcome home, sir!

Happy Trails to You

The month of December was a costly "hit" for 77th Street. Two of our legends have moved on to greener pastures. Sgt. **Roger Dunning** (25 years) and Det. **III Marvin Carter** (30 years). They have been here at 77th Street since forever, and it goes without saying that their wisdom and experience will indeed be missed by all of the personnel here. Good luck, gentlemen.

A Morning Watch Officer "O.G." Officer **Mike "Chappy" Chapman**, has left us for Training Division, followed by Officer **Jayson Lewis**, who took his new adventure out of state to the state of Idaho. Officer **David Chambliss** has left us for Buena Park P.D., along with Officer **Andy Luong**. Good luck to all of you!

Rumor Control

Word has reached 77th that Foothill Division has been spreading rumors that with their new captain and other weight lifting personnel and support, they will be taking the "championship title" away from the "Power Pigs." Let it be known that we welcome the challenge. And in true 77th Street fashion, we simply say . . . "Bring it on!"

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77th Street Honors Their Community Police Advisory Board

On December 11, 1998, 77th Street Senior Lead Officers and community relation personnel hosted a "thank you" dinner for its CPAB members. This event was catered and held in the 77th Street community room. All of the CPAB members were in attendance and very appreciative of this special thank you which took them all by surprise. This was indeed a well deserved event for our 77th CPAB is very supportive of the officers here at 77th Street throughout the year.

Attention K-Mart Shoppers

Let it be known that the K-Mart in 77th Street does not tolerate robbery. Recently suspects attempted to rob the store of \$4,000. As they attempted to exit the rear doors, the alarm activated and they chose to run out of the front doors. The suspect with the money was tackled by employees and two of the suspects fled in a vehicle. With a crime broadcast put out, the air ship was able to locate the vehicle. The air ship directed responding vehicles to the suspects' location. Officer **Robert Frutos**, Officer **Jayson Lewis**, and Officer **Bill Carty** took the suspects into custody without incident. Outstanding job by both the community and the LAPD.

77th Street Crime in General

The month of December brought various task forces to our division. We ran a vice task force, an east side task force, and then there is our constant task force against the gangs in 77th Street. We have experienced an increase of shootings amongst some of our rival gangs, but we manage to stay on top, and working together as Patrol, CRASH and the community, we continue to be a success in our efforts in combating crime.

We hope you all have a great new year, and we look forward to working with you in 1999. Continue to be safe out there and remember, you don't gain respect by the uniform you wear, you attain respect by the way you do your job.



by Ruben Rodriguez
Hollenbeck Division

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone. May all your dreams come true in the company of your sweetheart.

Retirement Announcements

Hollenbeck is losing some hard to replace experience as several veteran officers pull the plug. Det. 3 **Sal Narez** is

pounds, and 8 ounces, and measured 20 inches in length. Ed and Arlene, congratulations on your new family addition.

Moving On Up

Congratulations go out to **Fernando Gil**, on his promotion to Training Officer. Fernando's promotion is well deserved and long overdue. Fernando, my hat is off to you, and I wish you good luck as you move up the ladder of success.

Welcome

A Hollenbeck welcome goes out to Officer **A. Lopez**, who joins us from 77th Division. We also say howdy to five brand new raw recruits, coming to us from our fine institution of higher learning, known as the Los Angeles Police Academy. They are: **N. Flamenco**, **J. Fleming**, **C. Kirkpatrick**, **C. Morton** and **M. Perry**. Welcome all.



SLO Richard Rodriguez and P-3 Joe Padilla present Jeff Smith with some fine cigars at an impromptu retirement ceremony.

now enjoying the life of leisure, having retired in January. Also changing his clothes from Department attire to lounging attire is **Tony Canales**, who also left in the end of January. Last, but not least, we say goodbye to P-3 **Jeff Smith**, also officially retired in January. We say so long and good luck to these very fine officers and we thank them for their long tenure and outstanding service to the citizens of Los Angeles.

Stork Announcement

Yet another baby has arrived at Hollenbeck Station. This time, the honor belongs to Officer **Ed Castro**. Ed's lovely wife, Arlene, recently gave birth to a healthy and beautiful baby girl. Little Camille Noelle Castro arrived in this world on December 14, 1998, at precisely 0059 hours. Baby Camille weighed in at a robust 8

may your stay at Hollenbeck be a memorable one.

So Long

Congratulations and so longs go out to **Marco Saenz**, who is now a Sergeant II at Headquarters Bureau. We also say goodbye to **T. Peebles**, who is now assigned to Narcotics Division. **R. Obong** is now in the classroom, working out of DARE. **T. Jones** is patrolling the streets of North Hollywood, while **J. Perez** is serving the citizens of Southwest. Good luck to all of you on your new endeavors.

Que Paso?

This month's salute goes out to my good buddy, Property Officer **Robert "Yoda" Martinez**. May the force be with you.

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What About Wilshire?

by Jason Ficken
Wilshire Division

Another year has come and gone. One wonders where all the time went or even what one did to better themselves. As I sit here and ponder the previous year, I can't help but fantasize about what the new year could bring. If I keep pace with last year, it won't bring too much. Hopefully everyone has set some new goals to reach. For those of you who have not committed to any diets or alternate swear-bys, you're my kind of people.

Santa Rides a Bike

The entire Bike Unit headed by Sgt. **Mario Valdez**, showed how big their hearts were during the holiday season. It seems a lot of the unit likes to frequent a local Subway Sandwich shop close to the station. One of the workers who serves them almost daily is a single mother of



PM Watch is down.



Wilshire bike officers lending a helping hand.

four. She fell on hard times and had no money to get her children any Christmas presents. The Bike Unit collected monies amongst themselves and purchased a Christmas tree and gifts for the kids. They brought the items to the restaurant and surprised her. It turned out to be a great Christmas for the woman and her kids after all. The caring and compassion shown by the below listed officers demonstrates the character and leadership of the unit. To officers **Stephanie Paglia**,

longa, Angel Vega, Jim Breslin, Art Contreras, Spiro Roditis, Hector Urena, Titus Tyler, Eric Mollinedo, Cathy Clark, Dan Taylor and Sgt. **Mario Valdez**, thank you!

Help Wanted

It looks like the Senior Lead Office will be advertising again soon. SLOs **Jeff Allan, Ron Jones, Andrea Lucie** and **Lou Lenchuck** have all retained excellent band positions for the new detective list. That will make enough room for the new Senior Lead Sergeant **Pete Gamino** to have a desk all to himself. Former SLO Sgt. **Lamar 'Ring My' Bell** has found a new home as the new AWC of Day Watch Patrol. Reserve Coordinator **Warren Porche** has made the detective band after nine years as a P-2 dog. Warren decided it was time to promote after he got the first mortgage note on his new house. By the way, Warren, when's the party?

Kudos to Dets. **Ingrid Braun** (Wilshire) and **Christy Holroyd** (Central) for their promotions to D-II.

Congratulations to SLO **Tim Kim** on his new baby girl, Lauren Kim (7 pounds, 7 ounces), born on December 18, 1998.

Sports

Wilshire will be having its 2nd annual Run Against Crime 5 & 10 K Race on February 28th. Registration is at 0630 hours

B.A.D. News

by Lou Koven
Burglary-Auto Theft Division

In-N-Out

Det. **Jesus Bazan** from Southeast Detectives (Robbery) is into BAD and working the Safe Detail in the Burglary Special Section. Det. **Jesse Lopez**, formerly the C/O's Adjutant at BAD, recently was promoted to sergeant and transferred to Southwest Division.



Left to Right: "Z" Howe, Gracie Alvarez, John Byun and Rosemary Jung.

Clerk Typist **Gracie Alvarez** was promoted to secretary and is now working Central Bureau. Secretary **Kathy Lyles** is retiring and moving with her husband to the beautiful state of Idaho. We also want to welcome Senior Clerk Typist **Carrie Firestone**, who came to BAD from the City Clerk's office.

Birthday Wishes

This month is a short list for our birthday celebrants. Happy birthday to the following BAD people: **Steve Kolb** (2/4), **Dave Evans** (2/20), **Mike Lomeli** (2/15), and I missed **Dan Nee**, who was 39 for the first time on 1/4.

Recent Retirements

BAD CATS Det-III **Gil Hetrick**, #14712, retired as of January 30, 1999 with over 30 years of service. An article will appear in a month or so outlining the shining career of this premiere detective. Gil's retirement party will be on Friday, March 19, 1999 at 1730 hours at the Academy. For tickets call 485-2507 or 2524 or stop by BAD, room 319. Check this month's edition for the advertisement flyer.

BAD Holiday Party

BAD's holiday party was a big success with over 50 people attending. The event was held in Long Beach aboard the "Pa-



Left to Right: Jaime Samaniego, Gil Hetrick, Steve Howe, Lt. Joe Freia and Mike Perez at BAD's holiday party.

cific Spirit." While the music played, the wine flowed along with munchies. Numerous gifts were raffled off, with the CATS "princess," **Yvette Moreno** winning the grand prize.

More Divisional Reporter on next page

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER

USDI Uniformed Support Division

by Wayne Carson
Incident Command Post Unit

Hello and Happy New Year from the Incident Command Post Unit. We hope the new year will bring peace and health to you and your family.

The new year usually brings a feeling of new beginnings and promises that may or may not be kept. The Incident Command Post will continue to promote emergency preparedness, provide Emergency Management training and swiftly respond to your request for resources. We will also continue to improve our equipment to meet your needs in the field.

In this month's edition of the *Blue Line*, we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the people behind the scene, so to speak, who assist us and come to our aid when #@@%*@ hits the fan. Following an incident, there generally is not enough time to properly acknowledge the efforts and performance of personnel involved in an operation. We would like to acknowledge it now.

We thank you:

Reserve Officer **Denny Bare**. Denny is a retired LAPD Officer who was previously assigned to the Incident Command Post Unit. Fortunately for us, he decided to continue his service by returning as a reserve officer to the unit and again participating in the service we provide.

Linda Young, wife of Officer **Bill Young**, who on many occasions has arisen at 0 dark thirty to assist in the deployment of our mobile canteen to serve hot coffee and doughnuts to officers and officers' families attending police officers' funerals. Linda also cooks on some occasions for police benefits.

Dave Turney of the Police Dept. Metal Shop. Dave is a Reserve Deputy for the San Bernardino Sheriff's Office and is always there for us, especially when we break something. Dave's ex-

pertise with metal and welding has come in very handy when we bring him two pieces of what was supposed to be one piece.

Ed Murray & crew of Information Technology Agency (ITA). These are the guys who connect and make sure that telephone and microwave communications operations continue to function when we need it. When you want to reach out and touch someone, they make it possible. We have had the pleasure of working with them at many serious incidents including the North Hollywood shoot-out and the air-2 disaster involving the Los Angeles Fire Department helicopter.



Incident Command Post Unit.

Charlie and Richard of Motor Transport have kept up the reputation of the song, "Keep Those Trucks Ah Rollin'." The big rigs that pull our communications trailers require a lot of attention and at times require last minute repairs. These guys are always there to scrape knuckles to get us out in the field.

Steve Merrill of the Wood Shop. Steve has been called upon on many occasions to devise a way to transport and store equipment in our mobile command trailers and to allow more room for the command staff to conduct operations. His skills are a valuable asset to the department.

We would like to thank each and every individual in this article but it would take a couple of pages to accomplish this. However, we are sorry if your name didn't appear but our thanks go out to the wonderful people in General Services, other entities of Motor Transport and the Electrician Shop.

Again, thank you for your friendship and service to our unit and the Los Angeles Police Department.



by Joyce Severns
Devonshire Division

Ins-N-Outs

It's been quite a while since we reported our doings. Leaving and departing from Dev's Dog House is newly promoted to Senior Management Analyst **Colleen Briggs** to Training Division, PIII Officer **C. Volland** leaving us for Management Services Division, Of-



ment, plus a handsome mural depicting Devonshire Area. Our thanks again to the countless hours served by the members of SOLID!

Devonshire's Bicycle Patrol Unit

We'd like to introduce Officers **Vance De Ruise**, **Erik Solter** and **Fernando Muñoz** (not pictured) as the distinctive members of Devonshire's Bicycle Patrol Unit. Recently, while on routine patrol, this team of officers recovered approximately one pound of "meth," not to mention putting the bad



Officers Vance De Ruise and Erik Solter.

guy away for quite some time! This isn't the first time for this team. They've been involved in numerous "Commendable Copper Capers." Good job guys!

Devonshire's Explorer Post

There are members of Devonshire Area that at times go unmentioned but serve countless hours to the Division and the community. One group to be mentioned is our Explorer group. Recently, Boy Scout Pack #613, Den 7, from the Kadima Hebrew Academy, was given a tour of Devonshire Station. Acting as tour guide is Explorer Scout Lieutenant **Higginson**. The Explorer program is a wonderful opportunity for young men and women looking into



Boy Scout Pack #613, Den 7 of the "Kadima Hebrew Academy" and Explorer Scout Lieutenant Higginson.

law enforcement as a possible career, plus it serves as a great role model for young children. Thanks again for all your help!!



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Out of the Great Southwest

by Jeff Siggers
Southwest Division

Their Finest Hour

It's easy to become a little jaded by the great police work done at Southwest. We sometimes look at it like it is commonplace and therefore not so special. Then, an incident comes along that is so selfless and brave that it takes your breath away. I am talking about a recent incident where Morning Watch Officers **Barry Montgomery, Scott Ogata, Eric Crosson, and Bobbie Covington** put the lives of others before their own.

On November 26th of last year, at about 4:00 a.m., these officers received a call of a "459 suspect there now" at 4275 S. La Salle Ave. It was quickly followed by a second call, "Arson suspect there now, setting the house on fire." A 77th unit beat them to the call and took the suspect into custody, but not before he was able to douse the house in gasoline and set it off. As our officers arrived, the front of the house erupted in flames. A quick investigation revealed that this location was a mental halfway house and that the 5150 suspect had decided to burn it down—with all the residents inside! Montgomery, Ogata, Crosson, and Covington ran to the back and tried to call the residents out without success. They were too impaired and afraid to act to save themselves from certain death. With

superheated smoke and flame beginning to fill the house, and the Fire Department not yet in sight, the officers had to act quickly. With Montgomery in the lead, they kicked the rear door and crawled in on their hands and knees, holding onto each other's equipment belts to form a human chain. They found two residents sitting on their beds in confused fear and led them out to safety. Montgomery and Covington were overcome by the smoke and the heat. Ogata and Crosson tried to make a second entry, but were beaten back by the intense heat and flame. They found out later that all the residents made it out safely. It is clear, however, that the two they rescued would have been victims of the mad arsonist without the quick thinking and fearless actions of these four fine officers.

Of course, commendations have been written, and other actions are being taken, but the highest kudos that can be given to these fine officers they already have—the knowledge that they faced extreme danger and prevailed, and saved the lives of two innocent human beings.

A Christmas Story

Everyone knows about the untimely death of Southwest CRASH Officer **Fil Cuesta** last August at the hands of a low life gang banger. Since this incident, there has been an incredible outpouring of sympathy and support from the LAPD family, other agencies, and the public. This is another one of those amazing stories about a group of people who saw a need in Fil's family and took action way above and beyond what was required, just to show how much they cared.

Fil's wife, Sylvia, works for the City of Santa Fe Springs and their home is in Norwalk. One day in November, S.F.S. Fire Department Captain Dan Pierro stopped by the house to pay his respects and see if there was anything he could do

to help. He noticed the interior of the house was torn up as though it was under construction and asked Sylvia about it. She told him that Fil had been remodeling the house at the time of his death, trying to modernize the kitchen and bathroom, and put in new doors and windows. Now the place looked like a bomb had hit it, with torn up walls and floors. It turns out that Capt. Pierro is a general contractor when off duty, so he talked it over with his partner, S.F.S. Fire Captain Pat Cradick and Fire Chief Norbert Schnabel. They quickly formed a plan and the two fire captains began contacting several skilled construction friends in the S.F.S. Fire Department, the Downey Fire Department, the Whittier Police Department (who patrol S.F.S.) and the S.F.S. City Maintenance Departments. They also called Officer **Don Poirier** of Southwest CRASH, who often helps Fil's family, and let him in on their plan.

On December 5th, a small army of construction volunteers from all the above agencies descended on the Cuesta house, moved Sylvia out, put all of her furniture in a large storage bin, and set to work. Over the next ten days, using materials donated from several sources, they installed new kitchen cabinets, counter tops and appliances. They remodeled the bathrooms and tiled some of the floors. They hung all new windows and doors, including the new French double door from the dining room to the backyard, and repainted the interior. Not stopping

there, these incredible human beings then sandblasted and repainted the whole exterior of the house, put in a sprinkler system, and resodded the lawn! Then, the Downey Fire Department brought over a ladder truck, hung Christmas lights on Sylvia's roof, and gave her a Christmas tree.

During the latter part of the construction, Sylvia was not allowed into the house. So, on December 15th, when they had the ribbon-cutting ceremony, attended by the Mayor of Santa Fe Springs, local dignitaries and the media, she had not yet seen their work. Imagine her feelings when she first witnessed this outstanding demonstration of caring for the family of our fallen officer. We would like to thank Captains Pierro and Cradick for their exemplary actions on behalf of the Cuesta family and Chief Schnabel for supporting them. We want to applaud the amazing efforts of Jose Tavera and Robert Soto of the S.F.S. Public Works Department and thank them for the great work they did. We also must command Jeff Turner of the Downey Fire Department and Don Hannah of the Whittier Police for their contributions to this amazing Christmas story, and all the other wonderful people who donated the supplies and materials and showed up to donate their time and skills to help Fil's family. Let it be known that the LAPD family is eternally grateful to them and extends to them a warm and sincere "THANK YOU!"

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER



Pacific Breeze

by Cheri Roberts
Pacific Division

Teaching a "New Dog" Old Tricks

On November 23, 1998, there was a homicide in our division. Through several leads, the detectives determined the name and possible location of the suspect. On November 25, 1998, the detectives responded to the location, at which time the suspect fled. The suspect was able to elude officers in foot pursuit, officers with K-9s, and the Air Unit.

On November 26, 1998, while in roll call, officers received a color photo, description, and information on the suspect. Officer **Joy Smith** (31609) and **Anthony Batre** (34684) ran the suspect for a current address, then conducted a follow-up to that location. Officers were met by the mother of suspect's friend, who advised them that the suspect had been staying at her residence for the past week. She claimed that the last time she saw him was the night before. Officers asked if he had made any attempt to contact her son, and she advised that she hadn't spoken to her son since the prior evening either. Officers (who slyly noticed a blinking light on the woman's answering machine) then asked if she had checked her answering machine lately. She stated that she hadn't, and played the messages. There were two messages from a female who was desperate to get a hold of someone at the residence, calling at 0030 hours and 0230 hours. Officers questioned who the female was. The woman told officers that her name was "Keshia," that she was a friend of her son's, and the name of the street she lived on. She further advised officers that the street was directly behind her residence. Officers then walked through the alley behind her residence, at which time they were approached by numerous citizens who lived in the area. The residents questioned officers as to what had happened the night before, and if they caught the suspect. The citizens

then told officers about the "guy" they saw the police chasing, how he removed his jacket and watch while he was running from them, and then directed the officers to the route that the suspect had taken during the chase. While in "conversation" with these citizens, they then pointed out that there was a residence that was known as a "drug location," and asked if they could do anything about the problem. The citizens then directed officers to the exact apartment, further advising them that the nickname of the suspect was "Suzi Cream Cheese." The officers then asked if they knew any other names "Suzi" may use, and they said, "Yeah, Keshia." Officers then decided to go pay a visit to "Keshia." Upon approaching her apartment, they observed a female knocking on the door. Officers then positioned themselves in front of the door when it was opened. Officer Smith observed a male white standing in the doorway, and yeah, you guessed it . . . it was the very suspect who had eluded so many officers the night before. He was then taken into custody without incident. This officer investigation just goes to show you what can be done with a little bit of initiative, ambition, community relations, and plain old investigative skill. Here's to a great job by Officers Smith and Batre. Keep up the good work!!

Movin' Up

Congratulations goes out to the following people who have recently been promoted to P-3s here at Pacific: **Ibarra**, **Sanclemente**, **Ribitzki**, and **Hainline**.

Movin' Out

We say goodbye to the following people who have recently left Pacific: Sgt. **Kos**, who has gone to HARB; Det. **English**, who left us for RHD; Officer **Guessford**, who went to DSD; Officer **Millan**, who went over to CRS; Officer **Resh**, who left us for HARB; and the new P-2s **Bonney** and **Delatorre**, who went to SE.

Movin' In

We would like to give a big "Pacific Welcome" to the following people who have recently transferred in: Newly promoted Sgts. **Hom** in from NE, and **Kite** in from TD, Officer **Kim** over from CENT, Officer **Michelson** in from Metro, Officer **Madison** over from HARB, Officer **Gurrola** in from SE, Officer **Solis** over from WVAL, and from Training Division **Anderson**, **Duboise**, **Hernandez**, and **Pacheco**.

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ACADEMY NEWS

by David Koeh
Training Division

Kentwood Elementary School Christmas Party

In December, 1998, Training Division hosted a Christmas party for the Kentwood Elementary School students at their school auditorium. Command-



Kentwood Elementary School students unwrapping gifts.



Training Division staff at the Kentwood Elementary School Christmas party.

ing officers, instructors, recruit officers, and many generous donators gave enough gifts for every one of the children. **Ken Olivier** (Senior Management Analyst) eagerly volunteered to play the role of Santa Claus. Ken did an outstanding job of making the children laugh and smile during this event. Officers **Martin Gonzalez**, **Mary Kite**, and **Trish Andujo** insisted that they should be given the honor to play LAPD elves. There were no arguments for this proposal. Overall, the children of this school were excited to see LAPD officers share a special moment with them during this holiday tradition.

ARTC Christmas Party

On December 8, 1998, the Spice Café, located inside the Ahmanson



Spice Café and ARTC personnel.

Recruit Training Center, provided free food to instructors, as well as recruits. Every person at the giveaway placed an ornament on the Christmas tree. The instructors sacrificed their growling stomachs to allow recruit officers to eat first, in tradition with the holiday spirits. Once again, we at Training Division would like to thank **LeAnne**

Schwartz, **Susan Travis**, and the incredible staff of the Spice Café for their gracious gift to us.

LAPD Bobsled Team

Physical Training/Self-Defense personnel have recently created a new LAPD Bobsled Team. Tryouts for this team were conducted in December, 1998. The event consisted of three of the team's leaders demonstrating the procedures involved in bobsledding. The captain of the team was **Sgt. Minini**, along with co-captains **Bruce Barrios** and **Annett Olivas**. When the team was running with the 8B-98 Class in the early morning hours, there was a patch of ice that had accumulated on the public sidewalk. The team demonstrated their complicated bobsled maneuvers on this terrain. Olivas was the first to drop down and lead the pack, followed quickly by Barrios and **Sgt. Minini**. They then quickly sprang to their feet and continued to lead the class on their run. Fortunately, none of these instructors were injured as a result of this tryout day. **Sgt. Minini** is currently taking applications for those who are interested in joining the team.

Baker to Vegas Update

Every candidate for the Training Division Team will be required to give an entry fee of \$60. Uniform orders will be submitted in the beginning of February.

1999. The runoff are planned to take place at the Ranger's Station at Griffith Park on February 12, at 0630 hours, and on March 12th, at 0630 hours. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact **Renee Montoya** at (310) 342-3050, **Henry Mendoza** at (310) 342-3046, **Marc Hemsworth** at (909) 988-7395, or **Jack Brandt** at (213) 485-2600.

Promotions and Transfers

We would like to congratulate Officer **Mary Kite** on her promotion to the rank of sergeant. Mary is currently a supervisor at Pacific Division. Congratulations to Officers **Bell** (CRS), **Acosta** (SE), and **Kalkus** (SE). These officers promoted to P-3 at our division.

Officers **Brad Wise** (Tactics) and **Martin Gonzalez** (Academics) promoted to the rank of P-3 within our division. Great job.

Lt. **Webb** (DEV), and Officers **Chapman** (77th), **Malachi** (SE), and **Bella** (WVAL), transferred to our division. Welcome aboard everyone!



by Gail Ryan
Newton Division

February marks the 74th anniversary of Newton Division and the second year in our new station. Over the years Newton officers have seen and been involved in a major part of L.A. history. The division is home to the first Black community in L.A., later known as the Central Avenue corridor. Within the corridor is the first hotel and hospital for Blacks in L.A., both known as the Dunbar, along with the all-Black Fireman's Museum. The famous jazz joints of the '30s and '40s were also located in this area. The main Coca-Cola bottling company (built to look like a ship) is located at the start of the corridor. The old Goodyear plant used to end the corridor but it was torn down a few years ago and replaced by the main L.A. Post Office terminal. Once the old red cars used to run throughout the division, now the Blue Line cuts through from Long Beach Blvd. to Washington Blvd. en route to the Figueroa turnaround. Before Dodger Stadium there was Wrigley Field at Avalon and 43rd Street. It was home to L.A.'s first baseball teams. The first gas station in California was located at Washington and Figueroa. And Evangelist Billy Graham held his first tent revival under a tent on Washington Blvd. near Broadway. Exotic animals and entertainers for Ringling Bros. Circus used to walk down Washington Blvd. from the trains on Alameda to their big tents near Broadway. It was a major trainwreck in the early '50s at Washington and Santa Fe that forced the Department to devise disaster plans. Over the years the division has seen numerous disasters, including a major explosion in 1948 of a chemical plant at Pico and Stanford that took several lives, a trainwreck in the '50s, escaping bulls from the Vernon meat packing plants, the Watts Riots, 7th Street explosion, the Black Panther shootout, the SLA shooting, a tornado down Broadway, the 49th Street School shooting, the L.A. Riots, the Imperial Toy Factory explosion, and numerous industrial fires. Also, over the years the division has gone from small vegetable farms to middle class dwellings to industrial sites, and major poverty areas. Where once farms and trees produced crops, gangs now roam. Over the years the division has earned a nickname that is known far and wide: "Shoot'N Newton," due to the number of civilian and officer shootings in the area. But, throughout it all, Newton has lost only one officer in the line of duty. Officer **Norbert Huseman** was gunned down in mid-December, 1945, while answering a neighbor dispute call in a housing project at 7th and Enterprise. He died eight days later on December 31, 1945, of gunshot wounds to his stomach, leaving behind a wife and four small children.

During late November and well into December, 1998, Newton Community Relations Section, headed by Sgt. **Al Gomez** and Officer **Pru Wright** were extremely busy. They hosted the Annual Newton Open House, combining the event with the Area's Annual Neighborhood Block Club Captains' Cookout. The open house served as the inaugural event for the area's civilian volunteers host group, the "Newton Knights and Ladies." More than 450 people were in attendance. The community relations unit also passed out 275 food baskets to needy community families on Thanksgiving and twice as many baskets, along

with toys, on Christmas. The overworked unit does many worthy civic functions throughout the year to help the citizens of the community enjoy a better life. Both Sgt. Gomez and Officer Wright will be sorely missed when they retire later in the year. They will be hard to replace.

On November 12, 1998, Officers **R. Argomaniz** and **M. Hamer** responded to a "child neglect" radio call at 56th and Main Streets. Upon their arrival, the officers observed a vehicle stopped at an intersection with the engine running and the driver passed out at the wheel. Further investigation revealed that a 6-year-old child was in the back seat without a seatbelt, amidst various empty bottles of beer. The officers attempted to awaken the driver by knocking on the window. When she finally awoke, she stepped on the accelerator, revving the engine in a failed attempt to flee. The officers finally persuaded her to open the door of her vehicle. When she complied, more bottles of empty beer were observed. The suspect advised the officers that she had been out drinking with her friends. She had just collected her daughter and was on her way home. She had no further recollection of the events of the evening. The suspect was arrested for DUI (her blood level was .15%) and her daughter was placed with DPSS.

During November and December, Newton Division was blowing up on a regular basis. On November 24th, an internal explosion occurred at factory located at 1258 E. 58th Street. The explosion, caused by a faulty air compressor, caused injury to seven employees and the evacuation of the remaining 50 employees. Then on December 18th, a traffic accident at 21st and Broadway caused a major natural gas explosion and fire, resulting in an evacuation of the surrounding neighborhood and local businesses. Luckily no one was hurt. And, finally on December 22nd, a welder's torch set off a major HazMat fire involving chemicals at a factory at 7th and Imperial Street that lasted well into the night. It caused major traffic jams on Washington Blvd. and the Santa Monica Freeway and was featured on the 5, 6, 7, and 11:00 news. Again, luckily no one was hurt.

Then on December 11th, at 0930 hours, as Sgt. **Martin Spann** was exiting the parking lot at Newton Station in his own vehicle, he observed heavy black smoke billowing out of the third floor of the King apartment building located at 1135 E. 35th Street. He drove his vehicle to the location, parked, and ran into the apartment building, yelling at the residents in English and Spanish to get out. Sgt. Spann then continued up to the second floor. He again directed more apartment residents out of the building through the thick smoke. From there, Sgt. Spann continued up to the third floor where the heat and smoke was intense. He found several citizens on the third floor and led them to the stairs and safety. Sgt. Spann then returned, located an emergency water hose and activated it so he could fight the fire. Newton CRASH Officers **Mark Griego** and **Isaac Galloway** arrived on the scene at this point and started to help. They assisted in locating citizens still in the building and evacuating them. Shortly thereafter, the fire department arrived and put out the fire. Sgt. Spann had to be treated for smoke inhalation and exposure to the flames, but all the residents of the apartment building were evacuated without serious injury. Congratulations to Sgt. Spann and Officers Griego and Galloway on a job well done.

Oops, almost forgot the fifth explosion and fire of the season. It happened when Det. **3 Jerry Pirro** was on his way to Newton's Christmas party at the Biltmore on December 11th. He was on the 60 Freeway, with the bed of his pickup loaded down with gifts for the Christmas party, when he noted smoke coming from the back of his truck and the bottle tops blowing off the gift bottles. By the time he could pull over, the whole bed was engulfed in flames and all the Christmas

gifts (TV included) were burnt beyond use. Jerry claims a spark from a cigarette from a passing vehicle caused the fire, not the cigar he was chewing on. Jerry was able to replace most of the gifts and still arrive at the party in time to enjoy the evening. Jerry, the new D3 on the Auto Table, is now working on replacing his truck.

During December, Newton Vice Officers were busy. They arrested a twice-convicted rapist in Newton Area for violation of 647(a)P.C. The suspect, who is from Northeast Div., stated that Newton Area was a safer place to commit his crimes. However, Newton Vice investigators quickly put an end to that misconception. Newton Vice Officer **G. Chovan** made the only felony arrest one night when a suspect offered her five "rocks" in exchange for sex. Not bad pay for a few minutes work.

The "Love Bug" struck three Newton officers in late 1998. Congratulations to Sgt. **Larry Wehage** on his recent nuptials. Larry



Recently married Sgt. Larry Wehage hamming it up at the Newton Christmas party.



Dec. 13, 1998, Las Vegas: Delia & Kellie Baitz's wedding.

and Glenda were married November 23, 1998, in Las Vegas, Nevada. And, two days after the Christmas party, on Dec. 13th, clerk **Delia Wiley** of the Captains Officer married Det. 2 **Kellie Baitz** of Newton Homicide in

Las Vegas, Nevada. And, finally P2 **Ann Navarez** of AM Watch, married long time beau, Eugene "Gino" Lopez on Dec. 19, 1998. Gino, a schoolteacher, was on vacation for the Christmas holidays, so the couple took a long honeymoon to Mexico before returning back to work.

On Friday, December 18, 1998, fellow officers, family, and friends attended a memorial service for Newton Officer **John Cundiff**, #30754, at Forest Lawn, Covina. A U.S. Marine Reserve, John had joined the Department on March 21, 1994. Even though he had been at Newton only a short time, he was well liked by his fellow patrol officers. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on February 6, 1970, John was only 28 years



Officer John Cundiff #30754 - Born: 2/6/70; Appt: 3/21/94; EOW: 12/13/98.

old when he was fatally injured on Sunday, December 13th, in a traffic accident on the 115 to W/B 91 at 0545 hours while en route to work. John left behind his 3-year-old daughter, Caroline, father, Walter, mother, Sally, his brother, Walter, Jr., and sisters Dorothy, Teresa, Kathy, Mary and Elizabeth. John was taken home to New Orleans by his family and laid to rest there. He will be missed by all.

Then, just a little over a week later, on December 30, 1998, Newton officers returned to Forest Lawn, Covina, again. This time to attend the funeral of a former Newton Officer, Sgt. **Wesley W. Bright**, #27968, who had passed away on December 25, 1998. Born in New York City on November 12, 1967, he joined the Department on October 9, 1990. Sgt. Bright, assigned to Van Nuys Division at the time of his death, had worked Newton Division for a number of years as a patrol officer before making sergeant.

More Divisional Reporter on next page

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER

West LA Journal

by Mary Dacey
West L.A. Division

A Turbo Burger Day was held on December 8th in remembrance of slain Officer **Brian Brown** with proceeds to go to his 7-year-old son, Dylan. Several LAPD officers, civilians, and officers from neighboring law enforcement agencies were in attendance. Captains **Dave Smith** and **Scott Kroeber** were on Bar-B-Q detail and over \$5,000 was raised.

Officer **Frank Pettinato** said that the West L.A. Christmas party held at the Bay View Plaza Hotel was great and that Capt. Dave Smith was "a real character!" (He just found that out?!) Ap-



Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pettinato slow-dancing at the party.

proximately 120 officers, spouses and friends attended the party and narcotics Officer **Bob Oswald** was the disc jockey for the evening. Are you ready to rumba?? Well, apparently Capt. Smith was. Not only did he rumba, he also did the crocodile rock and the bosanova. Door prizes consisted of gift certificates, \$500 of which was donated by Rheuban's Tow, who didn't tow away any cars. Dining on prime rib and prawns or chicken and salmon with a penthouse view sounds great. That, along with Christmas trees, white tablecloths and a view of the Pacific at night sound like reason enough to go. For those who missed it, there's always next year. The holiday party committee, **Frank Pettinato**, **Dennis Hinman** and **Susan Quan**, all deserve a big "thank you."

Sgt. **Mike Carodine** recently joined day watch patrol. (He wanted to see what he had been missing while upstairs in Vice!) He is a 14-year veteran and has been a sergeant for five years. He has tried to provide the best training



Sgt-2 Michael Carodine and Sgt. Steve Smith, WLA.

to up and coming officers and has been involved in the training cadres in all of his previous assignments. These include five years as a senior lead officer in Southeast as well as traffic and vice assignments. One of his job highlights occurred in 1988 when he was involved with the initiation of the Gunfire Reduction Response Teams deployed on New Year's Eve. This training has helped ensure the safety of the city's citizens on one of the busiest nights of the year. The commendations he has received for his training assignments prove his dedication to the troops.

A commendable cop caper occurred when Sgt. **Hearn** recently commended Officers **Alcala** and **Park** for their apprehension of a lewd conduct suspect. What started out as a radio call turned into a pursuit as the officers observed the suspect's vehicle speed up as they



Did they win the dance contest or what? Ofc. Brodie Seagrave & Becky Strong.

entered the neighborhood. The suspect then made several erratic turns and blew through stop signs. Alcala and Park pursued the suspect through West L.A. and Santa Monica with Officers **Guzman** and **Enbody** backing the unit. The suspect became stuck in an alley, blocked by a garbage truck, crashed into a wall, backed into a patrol car and was then arrested. Sgt. Hearn said that, "If the officers hadn't been as tenacious in their pursuit, a serial lewd conduct suspect might not have been apprehended." Several neighbors identified the man as the same one who had exposed himself to joggers and children on several occasions. Score: Police - 1, suspect - 0! Another suspect put behind bars where he belongs!



by Roy Langheld
West Traffic Division

As of the time this article was written, WTD has not moved into its new home at Wilshire Station. However, the word is we will be there before the end of January. The facility is nice and the lockers



Left to Right: Ricardo Hernandez, Bob Rodriguez and Giuseppe Buscaino laughing at their fellow officers.

are bigger than those at our current site. WTD will have more room and the detectives will have a nicer area to work. Unfortunately, Det. **Pearson** will not have



Bob Bartlett explaining retired life to the less fortunate working guys.

his own window overlooking a mountain meadow, but that's the breaks. There is always a reluctance to move from a familiar location to a new one, but that is human nature. The officers who have viewed the new facility are all impressed and are eager to try the change.

Retirements, Promotions

Sgt. **Dave Martinez** pulled the pin in January. It was a sad day for WTD. Dave Martinez was a respected, experienced WTD supervisor who will be missed by all. Dave could always be counted on for his expert advice when needed, but most importantly, he always had a pleasant easy-going attitude and was often seen laughing with other WTD personnel. Dave, we miss you big time! We'll let everyone know when his retirement party is scheduled. P-III **Cliff Frazier** made sergeant in Southwest Division. P-III **Steve Heglar** made sergeant at CTD. Congratulations to all three and good luck.

Tales of the Pup and Arson

BCMC Rick Oke responded to a T/C call down in Pacific Division along

with P-III **Jerry Post** and his Pinkie, **Chris Smythe**. The officers learned this was a Hit and Run T/C and the lady suspect left the scene with her dog. The dastardly inebriated suspect went into a store and would not let go of her dog. She held the dog tightly and then began to bite and chew on the poor mutt's hind leg. The pooch wasn't too thrilled to be considered lunch but was unable to escape the hungry dog-eating woman. Officer Oke had to forcibly stop the canine-starved lady from chewing the dog's leg off. According to Chris Smythe, no one offered the lady any Grey Poupon, and no, the dog was not a wiener dog. The poor hound did wind up with a bloody leg and escaped as soon as Oke was able to free it. Sgt. Joe

Mueller responded to the scene and made an immediate assessment and decision. Joe recommended that the woman be brought into the Community

Police Problem Solving Unit to take a bite out of crime. It is obvious this woman has tenacity and a fine set of canine teeth said Joe. Sgt. **Cheryl Kent** was en route to help save the poor pup when she alertly spotted a Venice Beach bum torching a discarded Christmas tree to warm up. Kent, knowing an arson suspect when she sees one, immediately put out an arson broadcast and went in foot pursuit of this dangerously cold beach bum. Unfortunately, the bum must have warmed himself up because he easily outdistanced our pursuing heroine. Sadly, the Christmas tree did not survive the torch job and was ruined. The rumor mill says that Sgt. Kent is going to put together a Christmas tree arson patrol next year after the holidays. Kent was heard to say, "How dare those freezing bums lighting fires to keep warm!" WOW! This is the kind of action that has all those other divisions green with envy. Ain't L.A. great??

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by Tom Wich
 Robbery Homicide Division

Hope everyone had a great New Year and that you're ready to go back to work. Just think, only 342 shopping days left until Christmas.

Divisional Happenings

RHD has started the New Year fast and furious. Homicide Specials has been working on a double homicide involving a notorious motorcycle gang in Devonshire Division. They have continued their investigations involving the murder of two of LAPD's finest, and are investigating the tragic suicide of a brother officer. Robbery Specials, along with Rape Specials, have assumed the investigation of the murder/robbery which occurred in a restaurant in Harbor City last December, as well as continued their investigations of several serial type crimes throughout the city. The other entities of RHD, the Bank Squad,



Christmas Spirit

On to some good news. This past Christmas we at RHD "adopted" the South Central L.A.M.P. project. All of us donated toys and currency. As you can

see by the photograph, the children were happy to see Santa, played by Boom Boom Hernandez. (No, he didn't need a pillow.)

Family Business

Another investigation that RHD is handling involves the murder of LAPD motor officer Paul Verna. Paul was murdered on June 2, 1983 while conducting a traffic stop in Foothill Division. RHD assumed the investigative responsibility and soon after arrested three suspects. The case went to court and all three were found guilty. The gunman, Kenneth Earl Gay, was sentenced to death. Gay has since been fighting his conviction and this past Christmas Eve the Verna family was informed that a new trial for the penalty phase is being set. (Merry Christmas!) Det. Haro, who has been on this case since the beginning, is now preparing for the trial. All of us at RHD will assist in any way that we can so that this scum will serve out the proper sentence that was originally handed down. Oh, this individual is trying to get his sentence reduced to LWOP.

(Editor's note: See letters to editor re: correspondence from Bryce Verna, son of Paul Verna.)



Det. Najera's grandchild, Alexander Paul Najera, born 12/13/98.

Det. Mike Watson, whose son Michael and his wife Colleen are now proud parents of baby girl Alexandria, born on September 13th. Both babies are healthy and doing fine. We now just have to make sure that the grandpas give their kids time with them.

Sports Beat

Baker to Vegas is just around the corner. We are again planning on earning a mug to celebrate our efforts in this grueling event. The coach, Otis Marlow, along with his servants, Bud Watts and



Proud Grandpa Mike Watson with granddaughter, Alexandria.

J. R. Kwock, have planned a training run at the Griffith Park Ranger Station for January 13th at 1630 hours. I've heard that prospective runners are being bribed with the promise of liquid refreshments after the run.

Retirement Corner

Break out the checkbooks. There are only two retirements this month. The first will be for Lt. II Elvan "Al" Moen, whose dinner will be held at TAIX restaurant on Thursday, February 11th. The other retirement will be for Det. III Richard L. Aldahl whose party/dinner will be held at the LAPD Academy Lounge on February 25th. Both get togethers will begin at 1700 hours with the cocktail(s) hour followed by dinner at 1800/1830 hours. The cost for each extravaganza will be \$25. Contact Jerry Stephens, Otis Marlow or Chris Arce at RHD, 213-485-2129.

More Divisional Reporter on next page

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER



by Lauro V. Montes
Northeast Division

On Friday, December the 18th, Northeast Division held its annual Christmas party at the Pasadena Holiday Inn. Approximately 200 of Northeast's finest were in attendance, dressed to impress, including both Captain Gray and Captain Sanchez, patrol personnel, vice personnel, detective personnel, CRASH personnel and civilian personnel. The dinner was buffet style and very good too. You can always tell the food is good when people return for second and third helpings. I know because I was one of them. Entertainment was provided by the DJ and Officer Tony Trusk, aka Mr. Shy. The Christmas party committee is to be commended on another outstanding job. A special thank you to the

Pasadena Holiday Inn staff for their hospitality.

Retirements

Det. III Carlos Galindo, #15613, pulled the pin back on January 16th, after 29 years, 1 month, and 15 days of service to the citizens of Los Angeles. Det. Galindo had been at Northeast Division since March of 1990. Det. Galindo was a very valuable detective supervisor who will be greatly missed. All of Northeast Division wishes you and your family a happy retirement.

Det. I Harold Bowman, #15326, also pulled the pin back on December 19th, after 29 years, 4 months, and 8 days of service to the citizens of Los Angeles. Det. Bowman had been at Northeast Division for over 25 years. Det. Bowman was a very dedicated detective who will also be greatly missed. All of Northeast Division wishes you and your family a happy retirement.

Officers of the Quarter

The Northeast Area uniformed CRASH Unit is proud to announce the selection of Police Officer II Michael Rodriguez, #30566, as the Detective Operations-Support Officer of the Third Quarter 1998. Mike has been a gang investigator for the last two years

and has played an important role in the success of the Northeast Area C.L.E.A.R. Project. Congratulations Mike.

The Northeast Area uniformed CRASH Unit is proud to announce the selection of Police Officer II Elias Vilaseñor, #31267, as the Uniformed CRASH Officer of the Fourth Quarter 1998. Eli has been a gang investigator for the last two years and has served as a team leader through 1998. Eli has played an important role in the suppression of the Avenues and Dogtown Gangs. Congratulations Eli "Pull the Trigger" Vilaseñor.

(CRASH info submitted by Sgt. Bob Arcos.)

Hoop It Up

The Northeast basketball team is off and running to a 5-1 record (as of press time 1/6/99). Their only loss came at the hands of Van Nuys Division by one point, 68-67. Coach Hugo Trujillo and player/coach Ladole Morris are the brains of the team. Other team members include: Michael Jackson, Kenny Korn, Gabe Rodriguez, Alfonso Villaneda, Joe Writer, Dave Trujillo, John Tarankow, Eric Jackson, and Jean Marioneaux. All games are played at the Academy gym during Day Watch hours. Keep up the good work guys and beat Van Nuys!

Bouncing Bundle of Joy

Congratulations to Roy Escalante and Sandra Farias on the birth of their

son, Roy Escalante, Jr., who was delivered on 12/18/98 at 0800 hours. Roy, Jr. weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 21 inches in length.

We're Number One

Congratulations to the Northeast Division golf team which recently took top honors at the first annual LAPRAAC intradepartmental tourney. The golf team members include: Perry Barnes, Bill Springer, Kenny Korn, Gabe Rodriguez, Joe Preciado, Boe Adams, Ray Rueda, and Jim Antenucci. There is no truth to the rumor that Perry Barnes threw his back out lifting the 4 foot championship trophy.

Knott's Berry Farm

Thank you to Knott's Berry Farm for providing tickets to LAPD personnel during the Christmas holidays. Your hospitality and your food are second to none.

Get Well

A speedy recovery to all Northeast personnel who are long term sick or IOD. We will continue to keep all of you in our thoughts.

Promotion

Congratulations to Sgt.-II Tony Lomedico on his recent promotion to the rank of lieutenant. Best of luck on your new watch commander assignment at West Valley Division. Keep in touch!

Goodbye, Rose

A very significant and sad "so long" to Senior Clerk Typist Rosie Timball of the Advocate Section. Rose retired on January 25th, and we miss her already!

Rose started her career with the Department in 1973 in AID. She went on to PRD, R&I and finally to IAG. Rose has spent the last 20 years working in the Advocate's office. She is well known by many people both inside and outside the Department. Rosie is one of those people

Internal Combustion

by David McGill
Internal Affairs Group

Welcome Mat

We wish to welcome SCT Judy Wright, Sgt. Tom Gandara, and Sgt. Manuel Romeral to IAG. Welcome aboard and good luck!

Sports

IAG's C-League basketball team finished the regular season with a record of 4-2. Congratulations, team, for a great effort. The results of the net phase, tournament play, will be in the next issue.

IAG Holiday Happenings

On December 16, Headquarters Section personnel decided to do something special for the holidays. Many employees went to Children's Hospital and donated blood for those in need. It sure made our folks happy to be doing something good for others, especially during the holidays season. Thanks to all of you who participated.

A few days later, West Section personnel donned their uniforms and also

went to Children's Hospital. Sgt. Jack Rose opted for his Santa suit (he said his uniform was in the cleaners!). The occasion was one of goodwill and cheer for the young patients hospitalized during the holidays, and it was a great sight to see. Approximately 15 children and their siblings were given gift-wrapped toys, candy and a "Kodak moment" with Santa Claus!

The gifts were personally selected and purchased for each child from contributions from West Section personnel, who all wholeheartedly supported this noble endeavor. Sgt. Rose did an outstanding job and was a very impressive Santa. Our employees were gratified by the smiles and hugs they received from the young children, some of whom had been hospitalized for months as a result of their medical conditions. We are hopeful that this new tradition will expand with all sections participating in 1999. Great job!

Employees of the Year

On December 17, IAG held its holiday luncheon at the New Otani Hotel. During the event, each Section Lieutenant announced their nomination for employee



prising the two functions are different, but because their jobs and responsibilities are so different.

Many congratulations go to the nominations for 1998 employee of the year: Sgt. Brenda Crump (Special Operations), Sgt. Bill Shortley (Headquarters), former D-III and now Lt. Harold Hall (South), D-III Joan McNamara (Valley), SCT Bridget Jones (West), SCT Bonnie Gurrola (Central), Sec. Corinne Leinen (Administrative), Sgt. Joe Vita



Debra Dawson, Chris Waters and Brian Hospodar, with an obviously pleased William.

(Domestic Violence Unit), and Sgt. Diane Burns (Advocate).

After much consideration by the C/Os, a very difficult decision was made for the two final selections. Internal Affairs Group is honored to announce the Sworn and Civilian Employees of the Year: Harold Hall and Corinne Leinen. Congratulations to you both; you deserve the honors!

who can look at a Deputy Chief and say, "I knew him when . . ." She is loved by all, and we're going to miss her wonderful sense of humor. She is presently building a home in Las Vegas and in the Philippines, and she plans to travel back and forth between the two. Best of luck, Rosie, and so long.

Until next time . . .



Santa Claus (Jack Rose), Jiro Oka, Joel Justice and Tanya.

of the year out of their personnel pool. Until the names are read, with a short synopsis of the employee's accomplishments and accolades, no one but the lieutenants and captains knew who the nominations were. The captains then announced a civilian employee of the year and a sworn employee of the year. The reason for both a sworn and civilian award was not because the people com-

More Divisional Reporter on page 34



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The Delgado brothers, Tomas and Manuel, proved to be the perfect fit as trainers of the L.A.P.D. Boxing Team. Pictured here with Ofcr. Manny Zapata of Southwest Div.



A long planned tribute to L.A. County Sheriff Sherman Block, an avid boxing tournament supporter, became a memorial to him after this recent death.

Ofcr. Julio Endara, Bell P.D., captivating the crowd with his heartfelt rendition of "I'm proud to be an American."



LAPD's Frankie Diaz sizing up his opponent.



5 TH ANNUAL · GRAND OLYMPIC FIGHT FOR LIFE BOXING



George Lopez ready for battle



Ofcr. Manny Zapata connects with a left jab and is about to unleash a strong right.



Honorary League member and radio station KFWB reporter, Dirk Morgan, interviews the champ.



World Champ Oscar de la Hoya poses with back-ups from Metropolitan Division.



LAPD Commander Dan Watson and League Director Lenny Muñoz presenting awards to Ofcr. George Lopez and Deputy Mando Guzman.



L.A.P.D. boxers George Lopez, Dave Carbajal and Donna Shoates waiting their turn.



L.A.P.D. Boxing teams best new fighter, Donna Shoates, after her thrilling and close Dep. Tanya Edwards.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL FIGHT FOR LIFE

By Lenny Muñoz

When asked, "Who won at the 'Fight for Life'?" or, "Which team, LAPD or the Sheriffs, won the tournament?", the 100% correct answer should be as follows: The patients at the City of Hope National Research Center in Duarte, California, were the big winners. The fighters from the two premier law enforcement agencies in the country gave all they had to give to help those whose lives are in the balance. The goal at the City of Hope is to win the fight against cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and the many other diseases that devastate lives all around the world. The goal of the LAPD and LASD boxing teams is to help the City of Hope research teams get another step closer to eradicating those diseases.

Cops and deputies enter the law enforcement field to help people. Supporting the City of Hope is an extension of doing that. About 3,500 people joined the boxing teams at the Grand Olympic Auditorium on Friday, November 20, 1998, to support this honorable effort by the men and women of local law enforcement.

The excitement ran thick as the gates opened at 6:30 p.m. The crowd was ready as the ever-popular Jimmy Lennon, Jr., took to the ring. As always, Mr. Lennon was a class act, showing why he was recently inducted into boxing's Hall of Fame.

Continued on page 7

MPIC AUDITORIUM • NOVEMBER 20, 1998

FOR LIFE

NG EVENT

Photos by: Dennis P. Zine



Ofcr. Donna Shoates "taking it" to Dep. Tanya Edwards.



A friendly rivalry (LAPD vs. LASD), A good cause (City of Hope) and wholesome, classy, ring ladies. A very worthy event.



RAMPART Div. Ofcr. Ruben Palomares mixing it up with Marine Corp Sergeant Tony Gonzales.



Ring announcer Jimmy Lennon, Jr. was recently inducted into Boxing Hall of Fame.



Former heavyweight contender Joey Orbillo (far lt) and retired LAPD Captain Rudy de Leon present awards to Dep. Jerry Ortiz and Ofcr. Francisco Diaz, both of whom had the crowd on their feet in the fight of the night.



League President Dave Hepburn and former WBA heavyweight champion Mike Weaver presenting winner's award to Ruben Palomares (Rampart Division).



Former WBA Light Weight Champ, Mando Ramos accepting cheers.



LAPD Ofcr. Dave Carbajal in the ring against Dep. Pete Enciso.



World Champion Oscar de la Hoya with LAPD Committee member Ofcr. Celia Komathy.



LA County Sheriff Leroy Baca responding to warm welcome from the crowd.

new fighter, Donna and close victory over

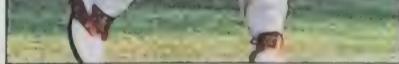


LAPPL GOLF Tournament

16TH Annual
For Family Support Group
November 2, 1998
Porter Valley Country Club



Oh, what form!



League Golfers dreaming of winning "Hole-in-One" car.



Who kept score for these fugitives from RHD?



Hector Zepeda has joined Jim Docherty and Bill Hall in retirement since the tournament.

BEYOND THE BADGE

A Home Away From Home

by Tim Barkas

This is a Christmas story. Yes, Christmas came and went weeks ago, and LAPD Sergeant Greg Renner and his wife Laura don't much look like elves. But this is still a Christmas story. It involves goodwill toward all, immeasurable generosity, and gifts that last a lifetime.

As a matter of fact, the "gifts" in this story are a lifetime—literally! The recipients were Marina and Irina Shulyakova—10-year-old twins who live in Kazakhstan—an undeveloped country that was once part of the former Soviet Union.

Greg and Laura helped bring Marina and Irina to the U.S. so that they could receive the state-of-the-art surgery that would give them full lives. Sergeant Renner, an 18-year veteran of the LAPD is currently stationed at the West Valley Division, and has been married to Laura for a little over 19 years.

Healing the Children

One day last August, an article in the L.A. Daily News caught Laura's attention. It told of Healing The Children (HTC), a philanthropic organization founded by Cris Embleton in 1979. HTC helps kids with life-threatening or severely debilitating ailments receive the medical care they so badly need. Many of these children live in countries where

such treatments are unavailable—and unaffordable in any case. For Marina and Irina, open-heart surgery was needed to repair holes in their hearts. HTC employs a network of volunteers to bring these

the organization, and this struck me as a good way to do it."

Supporting the HTC program meant that Greg and Laura would be volunteering to take direct responsibility for a



A family Christmas: Greg and Laura Renner with foster kids Marina and Irina Shulyakova.

needy children to America and facilitates the effort in many other ways, including donations of food, money and medical skills.

The article struck a chord with Laura, she says, because it mentioned that the Shriners Hospital in L.A. was involved in the program. "I used to receive treatment for rheumatoid arthritis at a Shriners facility in Minneapolis," Laura said. "I've always wanted to give something back to

medically needy child by temporarily becoming foster parents.

A Weighty Decision

"I began wondering if Greg would want to do something like this. Of course, I was only thinking about caring for one child at that point," Laura recalls with a laugh.

For his part, Sergeant Renner was more than ready to embrace the program.

For a couple of years he'd been looking for a way to make a rewarding contribution. "This seemed like just the thing," Greg said.

HTC Founder Cris Embleton visited the Renner's home to discuss the program, and brought photos of various children in need of help. One was a small girl from Nicaragua who had suffered terrible burns on her face and shoulders. The burns were so severe, in fact, that the child "couldn't even raise her arms above shoulder height," Greg said.

None of the children being helped by HTC have "minor" problems. Many have serious abnormalities, injuries or birth defects that simply cannot be treated by local medical practitioners.

"One girl's legs were almost twisted like pretzels," Greg said. "She's here in the U.S. being treated. To straighten the girl's legs, the bones had to be broken in several places. Rods were inserted to keep them straight. She's now in a full lower body cast."

Though it sounds gruesome, such treatment is the best chance she has for a more normal life.

Twins

At the end of that first meeting, Ms. Embleton mentioned -- almost as an afterthought -- that the organization was looking to place a pair of twin girls who

continued on next page

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• JAY SOARES, Police Officer

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• CHRIS PIMENTEL, Police Officer

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BEYOND THE BADGE

A Home Away From Home

continued from page 33

needed heart surgery, scheduled to arrive in November.

"The way Cris explained it, HTC was having a particularly hard time finding someone who'd be willing to take two children at once," Laura explained. "But we thought that if they were both in the hospital together, they'd keep each other company, and they'd have someone to speak to in their own language. We had an extra room, and since we'd never had kids before, if they came as a pair they could entertain each other."

"Our first reaction was: Two! Twins! We were a little hesitant. But as we thought about it more and more, we really came to embrace the idea," Greg said.

"In the end I just wanted to. I felt it in here," Laura added, pointing to her heart.

Of course, caring for a pair of post-operative kids could be doubly daunting. But Greg and Laura each had late-year vacations planned, so a bit of schedule juggling did the trick. But first, they'd need a foster care license.

California state law dictates that residents cannot have unrelated minors living with them for more than 30 consecutive days without a license. So the Renners had to obtain a foster care permit. HTC helped expedite the process, but even with that assistance, the couple's notebook chronicling the experience quickly became thick with forms, papers and other examples of bureaucratic red tape.

In addition to the emotional impact the arrival of two young kids would bring, embracing the idea meant shouldering considerable expense. Bunk beds were donated, but linens, clothing, food and a multitude of other items had to be purchased. For Greg and Laura Renner, who have no children, it was a BIG change.

"Really, it's better that volunteer foster parents don't receive compensation of any kind," Sgt. Renner explains. "After all, HTC doesn't want to attract people who are only in it for the money."

Road Trip

The trip to the U.S. was arduous. First, the girls traveled by train for more than a day-and-a-half from their village of Kók-

shetau to Moscow. This was followed by a 14-hour flight to Chicago, where they met the Renners for the first time.

"They got off the plane, walked right up to us and said, 'Hello my name is Marina (and Irina)', which was the full extent of their English skills at that point," Laura said.

"Once they were here, they learned the language very quickly," Greg added. "Their minds were like little sponges. They picked up individual words and phrases right away, and quickly began putting sentences together. It was really impressive."

And Laura had a moment of empathy for the girls' parents back home.

"Imagine how hard it must have been for the parents of these kids -- sending their children to a far-away place where they don't know anyone and don't even speak the language!" Laura said. "It would be difficult, but any parent would make that sacrifice to save the life of their child."

A warm welcome awaited the twins at the Renner's Valencia home. Lots of children live in their neighborhood, and they'd been alerted to the pending arri-

not only save the girls' lives, but provide a vast amount of useful information on the nature and treatment of inherited diseases.

But it didn't turn out that way. Though very similar in appearance, the girls are not identical twins, and the heart malformations, though similar, were not identical. High-tech pre-operative tests showed that the small hole in Irina's heart was in the muscle wall, and will correct itself over time. No surgery would be necessary.

Marina, however, was not so fortunate. A much larger hole existed in the membrane between the chambers of her heart, and would not heal on its own. Marina needed delicate open-heart surgery. Absent such action, the young girl's life would come to a tragic and premature end.

"She had the outward appearance of being healthy, which is unusual for that kind of condition," Sgt. Renner said. "She wasn't lethargic, with the blue lips and nails that you often see with a malfunctioning heart. And she was fairly energetic, although every once in a while she said that her chest hurt a little bit after she'd been running around with other kids."

Marina's surgery was performed Nov. 11. The procedure took nearly four hours,

And while both girls enjoyed the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays in America ("In America, Christmas BIG," Marina would proclaim) the twins were truly amazed at another American tradition -- Halloween!

"They had a hard time believing that on one particular night you could walk up to someone's door, say 'Trick or treat', and they give you candy!" Laura said.

"What a concept," Greg added. "They loved carving the pumpkins and putting on the outfits. When it was all over we dumped all of the candy out on the counter and they just said, 'WOW!'"

They also experienced mass transit, via the Metrolink train, loved playing in the ocean, and went to sea on the harbor cruise in Ventura.

And Then, Good-bye

Then, as quickly as it came about, it was over. Apparently, the enormity of what they'd experienced began to sink in for Marina and Irina when they began their trek back to their homeland.

The day after they'd left, during a stop in Minnesota, Irina was on the phone with her American "mom" Laura. In that final conversation, in the somewhat broken English that she'd only just begun to learn, Irina said: "Laura... teacher... class... Mrs. Adams... Mrs. Nortay... friends... Christy... Pepper... miss you!"

"I couldn't get motivated for awhile after they left," Greg said quietly. "Two months is a long time, and we had a little bonding going on there, and the house feels really empty now. On the way to bed last night, I went to check the girls' room..."

"I found a little ornament they had made, and hung it on the tree," Laura added. "I wish they had left more behind."

When they arrived, the girls had two small bags (about one square foot each) containing their heavy jackets, a few pairs of tights, and underwear.

"We sent them back with three big suitcases full of clothes and toys. We sent everything we could fit in the luggage -- including six months' worth of children's vitamins, and a box of Kleenex for their mom -- they really wanted that," Laura said wistfully.

Greg and Laura Renner may have wanted to "give something back" when they brought Marina and Irina into their home, but they most certainly got something unexpected, as well.

"I've gotta tell you," Laura said with a loving look at her husband. "When the girls arrived, Greg was walking on a cloud with an ear-to-ear grin. Even my family could hear it over the phone. He hadn't sounded quite that happy in years."

Perhaps, Sergeant Renner allows, the time has come to move forward with their often-discussed plans for adoption. What a lucky child that will be.

Editor's note: To learn more about Healing The Children, or to offer support of any kind, contact Cris Embleton at (805) 288-1957. Also, thanks to Debbi Friedman, West Valley Divisional Reporter, for the tip on the Renner family.



Ten-year-old twin sisters Marina (left) and Irina Shulyakova.

vals. The local kids hung a big poster on the Renner's garage door that said: "Welcome to America, with an American flag on one side and the Russian flag on the other.

Healing a Broken Heart

Marina and Irina represented an important opportunity for Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Laura explained, because researchers there thought they would be treating twins with an identical heart defect -- a landmark operation that would

and was every bit as invasive as one might imagine. The chest was opened; the rib cage separated, and a large dose of potassium brought the beating to a halt. Then surgeons entered the heart itself, found the potentially fatal flaw, and repaired it.

"The first few days afterward were very difficult for her," Greg said, "But she doesn't remember much of it, which is good."

Recovery

Marina recovered quickly, and was hospitalized for only three days. While she was recovering, Irina was on her own for the first time in her life, and became involved in the local Girl Scout troop.

During their brief (two month) stay, the girls were enrolled in school, where they quickly made lots of friends.

"They had so many friends it was really something," Laura said. "We had a birthday party for them while they were here, and there were about eight little girls here having a great time!"

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER



by Caesar Gonzalez
DARE Division

1999!!

It's amazing how time "flies." It seems that we just finished "toasting in" the new year and it's already February, 1999!

This is also the time that most of our new year resolutions fall to the wayside. Resolutions such as losing weight, to stop smoking, and maybe even a few DARE promises to ourselves.

DARE promises, such as to get more organized, to be more energetic in the classroom, and even possibly not to veer too far from the lesson plan, if you know what I mean!

It is easy for us to get complacent in all aspects of our lives. Procrastination is human nature and to let things go is all too easy.

However, when it comes to kids, we can't settle. Sometimes a little soul searching helps. At times we need to

reassess where our career is going and, more importantly, where we want to be!

Within DARE, that can mean going to middle school, senior high school, or possibly another assignment. That decision is up to you. You control your own destiny. Just remember, the opportunity is out there and the kids need YOU. Be safe and take care this year.

Charles the (Magnificent) Magician

I have been in DARE now over two years. I love working with kids and enjoy teaching.



Veteran LAPD Officer Chuck Williams performs his "card illusion."

However, the greatest pleasure that I have enjoyed is working with DARE's high caliber officers. DARE truly attracts bright and

talented instructors. One such officer is Officer **Chuck Williams**.

Chuck is a true professional and the epitome of a Los Angeles Police Officer. He participates annually in the Police Olympics and is part of DARE's elite training cadre, headed by **Sgt. Al Green**. Chuck has a heart of gold for the children he teaches and the officers he trains.

Among his many attributes, Chuck also finds time to do a little magic! He has been trained by the world famous Magic Castle in Hollywood.

Chuck had the opportunity to showcase his talent to all during our Christmas luncheon. He was truly amazing. He captivated the audience with his quick wit and comedic ability.

He entertained us at the beginning by having us think that he would let us in on his magic egg trick only to leave us more confused than when he first started. Then with the help of his beautiful "diva" (his wife Mary) he pulled a string of razor blades from his mouth! He also dazzled us with satin scarves, magic coloring books and card decks. Finally, he made us laugh at his comedy when he brought up **Sgt. Dan Miller** and **PSR Jeri Siel** to perform their natural "Honymooner's" act. (See pictures.)

If you are interested in obtaining FREE PASSES for the World Famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, leave a message for Officer Chuck Williams at (213) 485-4856, DARE Division.

X-Mas Luncheon

The 1998 Christmas luncheon was a big hit. It was held at The Castaways in

the city of Burbank, which overlooks the entire Burbank valley.

It was nice to see coworkers assembled in one place. We all exchanged stories of the year's events and the food was actually really good!

Our master of ceremony was **Sgt. Ed (Batman) Palmer**, who, in true David Letterman form, delivered punch line after punch line. The highlight of the afternoon was the magic performance by Chuck Williams.

Also, who could forget Officer **Ron Glover**'s great baritone voice when he stepped up to the mike and belted out a Christmas song and reminded us all of the true meaning of the holiday.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to **Gabie Lopez**, **Sgt. Marsela Piersol**, **Sgt. Ed Palmer**, **Shannon Allen**, and everyone else who made it happen.

DARE News!

Congratulations to Officer **Alexander** who is expecting a baby March of this year.

DARE Opportunities!

DARE officers will now be going to the middle and senior high schools. This is creating exciting opportunities at the elementary school level. Due to this expansion, DARE is seeking PII officers with a minimum of two years patrol experience as PIIs. If you are interested and want to start out the new year with a new job, call **Sgt. Jack Dillard** at (213) 485-4856.



Distant relative of Eddie Munster? Actually, it's Sgt. Swanson... a true "morning-watcher!"

"Miss Rodeo California 1999." Brandy is a 20-year-old Antelope Valley College student majoring in dental hygiene. Over the next year, Brandy will be an ambassador to the sport of rodeo, traveling the state of California, attending rodeos, schools and many other related functions. In December of 1999, she will compete for the title of "Miss Rodeo America 2000" in Las Vegas, in conjunction with the National Finals Rodeo.

Brandy is a hard-working, self-motivated individual who feels strongly about reaching as many people as possible with the message of the rodeo lifestyle. Her mission is to help educate our youth about a way of life that teaches responsibility, respect for nature, pride in their country, family values and lasting friendships.

Still, the only limitation is financial! Brandy would like to invite you all to participate in her year's fund-raiser consisting of an elegant western evening in-



Brandy DeJongh sporting her championship cowboy hat.

Our congratulations go out to Brandy DeJongh (daughter of VTD Motor **D. J. DeJongh**) who was the recipient of the



This is a motor cop... This is a car... This is what happens when a motor cop drives a car!

cluding dinner and auction. The event will be held on March 13, 1999, at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. If you would consider helping a member of your extended police family, it would be greatly appreciated.

For ticket information, please contact Brandy at (805) 270-0318.

Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following VTD personnel: **J. Mann** (2/1); **E. Wheelis** (2/16); **J. Thompson** (2/1); **C. Swanson** (2/27); **M. Verdini** (2/6); **J. McNeil** (2/3); **M. Rivas** (2/12); **S. Vazquez** (2/22); and **C. Dellinger** (2/6).

The Ins & Outs

Congratulations to Motor Officer **Frank "Been There, Done That" Orlando** for his promotion to sergeant now assigned to Northeast Division. Good

luck Northea . . . Uh, I mean, good luck Frank! And on a sad note, we mourn the transfer of **Bob Ward**, who now moves on to Rampart Division. As quoted by Bob, "I'll be missed by many, but not all." (Guess who?) We will miss you guys. On the "flip-side," VTD wishes to welcome **Sgt. Justice** from Van Nuys and Officers **Kaff**, **Lorey** and **Greni**.

IOD

Let's not forget those who are short and long term IOD. Take five minutes to make a call or better yet, pay a visit to the following IOD officers: **Brose**, **Garaz**, **Mays**, **Crupi**, **Rothman**, **Schram** and **Zielinski** (Hmmm, funny how they're all assigned to PM Watch.)

Until next time, keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down!

More Divisional Reporter on next page



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Riverside, Ventura and San Diego



DIVISIONAL REPORTER

HOLLYWOOD HAPPENINGS

by Floyd Toledo
Hollywood Division

Only in Hollywood

Only in Hollywood would you find officers working patrol in unit 6A97 on Christmas eve, signed on as operations West Bureau Commanding Officer Deputy Chief **Rick Dinse** and his adjutant, Lt. **Andrew Smith**. Chief Dinse wanted to work so that two hard-working Hollywood PM Watch officers could spend Christmas eve with their families. They handled a variety of radio calls and admitted that they staked out possible narco suspects that turned out to be only a local family selling tamales to their neighbors. So much for the "big Hollywood Christmas eve drug bust."

In-n-Out-n-Ups

Joining us during this holiday season were P-3s **Paul Secura** (77th), **Richard Evans** (HARB), and **Wayne Devey** (RAMP). P-2 **Jim Tumbeiro** (NHWD) is one of this department's best baseball players. Hitching a ride from Santa are P-1s **Gilbert Parra**, **Derrick Prude**, and our new MA2 **Ramona Congales** (CENT).

Following Rudolph's lead and are now gone is D-1 **D. Enriquez** (DSD), and P-2s **J. Armendariz** (N/E), **R. Lewis** (CTD), **J. Kim** (N/E), **W. Alvarino** (TBD), **B. Alvarez** (WVAL), and Clerk Typist **B. Muñoz** to N/E SID.

Birth

Born on December 14, at 1200 hours, to **Kelly** (HWD) and **Eric Martinelli** (RAMP) is daughter **Elena Nichole**, weighing in at just 5 pounds, 5 ounces, and 19 inches. Now there is a real joyous early Christmas present.

Pot Lucks

Day Watch Patrol (regular and mids) held a Christmas pot luck. It was a huge success. We even had a chili cookoff, with **Matt Phelps** narrowly edging out PSR **Pati Arnold** for the first place chili. **Jim Parker** cooked two turkeys and **Bard Scallion**'s enchiladas were a big hit. Obviously Lt. **Bower** wears the pants in his family . . . he got his wife (Sgt. 2 at Central Vice) to bake two batches of homemade cookies and a chocolate layer cake (homemade too).

Not to be outdone, the detectives also hosted a gala pot luck. In the

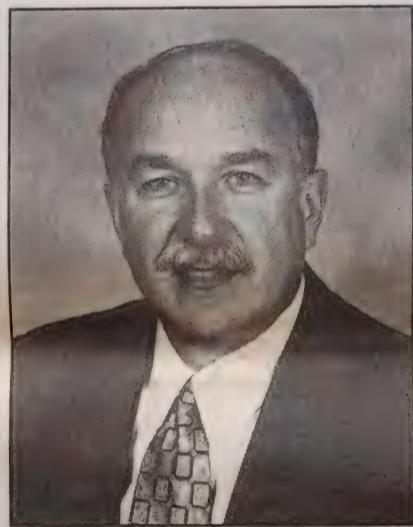
spirit of the season they decorated their work areas. Except for the Burglary Table, 'cause they were just "too busy," according to their supervisor **Wendi Berndt**. But they did find time to invite the personnel from the city attorney's office to join in their abundance of holiday desserts. Capt. **Diaz**, as tradition has it, distributed the gifts that were exchanged between Detective Area personnel.

To Honor a Detective

Hollywood is a city known for its superstars and bright lights. If "Dreamworks Productions" was to make a movie featuring a Hollywood detective, they'd only have to look at Hollywood's Burglary Table to find their leading man.

Det. II **Steve Bucher** for the past 24 years has constructed a police career that movies are made about. He has been a model of consistency and has produced an outstanding service to the community which has earned him nearly 200 commendations. Both from within the department and from highly appreciative citizens.

Other recognitions have included his being honored, "Employee of the Third Quarter," in October 1990, by the Hollywood Rotary Club, and "De-



Detective Steve Bucher.

tective of the Second Quarter," in May, 1994. He also received the prestigious American Legion "Law and Order" Award, in September, 1994.

In 1988, Det. Bucher promoted and was assigned to Hollywood Division. Arriving with an impressive patrol history which included having received an amazing amount of five "Class D" commendations in a span of just months. Could he continue the legend? Consistently demonstrating his compassion, expertise and tenacity in providing exemplary service to the citizens of this city while working all the various crime tables. With his inherent instincts and technical expertise, Detective Bucher has been called upon to handle the more complex or "high profile" cases. He has extensive

abilities in retrieving information through local, federal, and Internet computer data base systems and in tracking criminals via their telephones, cellular phones, and pagers. Det. Bucher's favorite case was a robbery case that he solved through his innovative use of using a suspect's own voice mail pager to locate the

through his patrol tactics, communications skill, physical condition, reliability and dedication to both the reserve program and the Hollywood community.

Officer Hazel has been married to Dorothy for 33 years, and daughters Suzanne and Diane can attest to his dedication as a family man, career



Hollywood officers make a fashion statement at the Christmas party. (Left to Right): Ellen Camarillo, Grace Torres, Patricia Batts, Kimberly Cypert and Cinthya Tapia.

criminal.

Det. Bucher has pursued violent criminals, made arrests and recovered millions of dollars worth of stolen property, returning it to their grateful owners. Another of his cases was featured as case #251 on the TV show "America's Most Wanted." Shortly after it was shown the suspect was captured locally.

Hollywood Detectives are the best of this department's best. As a result of Det. Bucher's unwavering commitment to his victims and his demonstrated high degree of work performance, we are honored to have selected Det. Steve Bucher as Hollywood Operations Support Division's Detective of the Year for 1998.

Reserve Officer of the Year

Officer Gary Hazel began his law enforcement career by graduating tops in his reserve academy class on August 2, 1968. His first assignment was a tour of duty in 77th Division. His first serial number was R-31. Then in 1978 he transferred to Hollywood Area. Officer Hazel's first love is in patrol where he has spent his entire career. During the years from 1982 until 1991 he worked the streets of Hollenbeck and was honored in 1987 as "Reserve Officer of the Year."

In 1991 he returned to Hollywood where he earned his certification of reserve designated level one. This honor is only given to those dedicated officers that have completed 2,000 hours of reserve service. In 1992, Officer Hazel was honored by being selected as Hollywood Area's Reserve Officer of the Quarter.

Officer Hazel is truly a man of great loyalty, professionalism, and commitment. He continues to perform the duties of a patrol officer with pride and demonstrates remarkable compassion for the citizens of Los Angeles

man, and reserve officer. We are proud and honored to name Officer Gary Hazel as Hollywood Area's Reserve Officer of the Year for 1998.

The Hollywood Vice and Prostitution Enforcement Detail (PED) celebrated their annual Christmas party and gift exchange. During the party



Vivian Gillette and Steve Reyes.

the Pagliotti Award is given to a vice or PED officer who is recognized by his/her peers. James Pagliotti was assigned to the vice section in 1987, prior to his unfortunate death. Officer Pagliotti had a great sense of humor, believed strongly in the bond of friendship, inspirational to all whom he met, and those closest to Jim described him as a man with a heart of fire who lived by the creed, "No Retreat, No Surrender."

The Pagliotti Award is given to that person, who through the year displays virtues held so dear to Jim Pagliotti and the people who knew him well. This award was given in Jim's honor to Officer **Steve Reyes**. Officer Reyes throughout the year demonstrated an outstanding work ethic and a true passion for his job. He is more than worthy to carry on the Pagliotti tradition.

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John Matarazzo
Retired LAPD
Senior Loan Officer

Southern Tip

by Alleycat
Harbor Area

The December article asked a simple question about how L.A. city combined with San Pedro. The only reply I received was from an old partner, retired Officer **Hal Gaines**. Hal was correct with his reply. L.A. city needed to purchase the harbor strip and gateway to have no break in the city boundary. This was so L.A. could take possession of the port of Los Angeles. I did hear a nasty rumor that years ago the city of San Pedro was a bit corrupt and anything was for sale, including the whole city. Well, now you know how San Pedro, Harbor City and harbor gateway became the city of L.A. Congratulations Hal on the correct response. I guess I owe you one, make it at the next 77th reunion. That should be soon.

This old division has a lot of history from within. The city of Wilmington was named after Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. Phineas Banning was the founder of the city as we know it today. He built a two-story house, known today as Banning Park. It still stands. He was a very insightful man and was instrumental in bringing a deep water port to the Los Angeles Harbor. He also developed the Wilmington Port as well as San Pedro. Not bad for a man who lived 150 years ago. His home is a testament to his ambition and drive, and is now a museum open to the public to visit at all times of the year. Don't forget the drum barracks, two blocks from Banning Park. This is also a museum and has its own personal ghost that has been known to change things around in the old standing residence. To those of you who are history buffs, you might enjoy taking a few hours to visit these two sites.

The baby boom is starting to come of age in Harbor Division. Officers **A. McCready**, **J. Arellano** and **G. Valdez** have become parents in the last few months. Det. **Chris Costley** had to take two months vacation to spend with the baby and his wife. I'm hearing rumors that a new crop is coming to Harbor. I know that **Marci Colomey** and her husband **Tim** (S/E Div.) are four months along, with a due date of July 4, 1999. Don't

forget the red, white and blue diapers if the baby is born on the fourth.

Young P-3 **David DeMarco** has finished his six-month loan to detectives and is coming back to the real world of police work, "Patrol." Dave, is this anything like the Canadian Mounties? Oh, Dave is a transplant from Canada.

Randy Barr was telling me a light story about one of our new sergeants. Sgt. **Kim Mole**, Day Watch, loaned Randy a pair of her work boots. They were so cute and small, Randy took them and had them bronzed for hanging on his rear view mirror. Come on Sarge, you can tell us the actual size. We won't laugh.

We have three officers off long term sick: **J. Ammons**, **B. Haney** and **J. Haisler**. That's nothing, we have nine off IOD: **F. Bustos**, **V. Feula**, **A. Ficke**, **M. Kuckowicz**, **B. Nelson**, **J. Paciorkoski**, **S. Reynolds**, **D. Sebenick** and **P. Tate**. Can you believe it, four of them are sergeants? If you can, give them a call and wish them a quick and healthy recovery.

Transfers have again started flowing. We lost two young officers to DARE, **Diane Tippet** and **Pat Roman**. **Richard Evans** was smart, transferring to Hollywood as a new P-3. We lost **Dennis Duran** to STD, **Drake Madison** to Pacific, and **Gabriel**

Kearney to WLA. Old and new into the division, Sgt. **Karen Kos** couldn't handle Pacific, so she came back to the fold in Harbor. New P-2s in: **K. Resh**, **H. Muirhead**, **J. Gregozek**, and **H. Arangure**. Good luck to all of you in your new assignments. Remember, don't stay too long in one spot, the brass says you become corruptible or something like that.

This is one for the book: A lieutenant cutting the grass of a sergeant-2. No, the lieutenant didn't lose a bet or anything like that. He's just a nice guy (a little strange) but nonetheless a helpful friend. Sgt. **Andy Simon** was off IOD with major surgery and his boss, Lt. **Rich Gamble** being a San Pedroite and good neighbor, decided he couldn't take seeing Andy's yard in such disarray. He came over and mowed it for Andy till Andy's body parts could mend. We all know that Andy didn't milk this out too long. Hey Rich, I'm gonna be off a while in 1999, do you mind doing a little work for me around the house? Now, "that is police working with police."

Let's make 1999 a safe year for all of us in law enforcement. We lost too many last year. Keep your wits about you and be safe for your families and partners.

Riding the Rails

by Jose Ceja
Transit Group

Year-End Bash!

Transit Group capped off an outstanding year with one heck of a party. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fun and excitement at the opulent LAPD Academy. Guests dined on the finest cuisine the Academy had to offer and drank from its vast collection of domestic and imported spirits. Guests were also treated to

hat and was ready to line dance all night, when he was finally told by fellow party goers that he had been misinformed.

Transit Services Section surprised everyone by allowing only plaza-level personnel to sit at their table. Officer **John Twine**, holder of several black belts in a number of martial arts disciplines, was instructed by his superiors to keep unworthy TBD and TRD officers away from their table.

A big shocker came at the end of the evening when during the Al's Kid and the 128's performance, their one and only groupie, Officer **Evan "Che" Guevarra**, rushed the stage in a fanatic act of devotion. No one was hurt during the disturbance, except for bass player Officer **Mark Preciado**, who suffered a guitar-strap burn to the back of his neck, when he tried to pull his bass away from Officer Guevarra.

Well, if you missed out this year,

• Sgt. **Jon Mays** wants the two loves of his life, his wife Marilou and his daughter Desi, to know that he appreciates all their hugs and kisses.

• Officer **Ruben Vasquez** wants to remind everyone, especially his wife, Lupe, that behind every good man there is a great woman. Thanks for always being there for me.

• Officer **Ken Dye** simply stated the following: You know, Penny, I love you!

• Officer **Jose Ceja** (me) wants his sweetie, Brenda Sanchez, to know that he will always love her.

To all those who did not get a Valen-

ginia. Lt. Young had the right stuff to score a perfect 4.0 GPA in her academic courses and earn a coveted yellow brick. The yellow brick is only given to those persons who can successfully complete the rigorous FBI obstacle course. Lt. Young says her stay in Virginia was very rewarding and she put an end to the rumor that she would be leaving Transit Group to replace Scully on TV's the X-Files. Welcome back lieutenant.

Adios Amigos

With 1998 behind us we must also say goodbye to some close friends who



The dapper John Twine (far right) allows TG's photographer, Ofcr. Ed Petterez, to take a picture of the exclusive TSS table.

tine's Day greeting in *The Thin Blue Line* this year, don't worry, no doubt if your significant other works at Transit Group, they surely think that you're special, too.

Future X-Files Star?

Lt. **Ann Young** returned to Transit Group after several grueling months at the FBI Academy in the state of Vir-

ginia. Lt. Young had the right stuff to score a perfect 4.0 GPA in her academic courses and earn a coveted yellow brick. The yellow brick is only given to those persons who can successfully complete the rigorous FBI obstacle course. Lt. Young says her stay in Virginia was very rewarding and she put an end to the rumor that she would be leaving Transit Group to replace Scully on TV's the X-Files. Welcome back lieutenant.

Future X-Files Star?

Lt. **Ann Young** returned to Transit Group after several grueling months at the FBI Academy in the state of Vir-

there's always next year. Merry belated Christmas and happy holidays to all the OUTSTANDING men and women of Transit Group.

Valentine's Day

It's that time of the year again when the thoughts of every officer, young and old alike, turn to love. Having run out of ideas, I asked some of the guys and gals at Transit Group if they would like to extend a Valentine's Day greeting to their special someone via *The Thin Blue Line*. Officers at both TBD and TRD jumped at the chance to tell their significant others, "I love you." The following is what I got:

• Officer **Sergio Andrade** wants his wife Elizabeth to know he appreciates every moment he spends with her and he hopes he will always be her Valentine.

• Officer **Peter Ponich** hopes he can make his sweetheart, Christina Bergy, as happy as she has made him.

More Divisional Reporter on next page

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L.A.P.D. Panel Doctor

The beautiful ladies of Transit Group light up the holiday party with their pretty smiles.

a special performance by Transit Group's very own Rock and Roll band, "Al's Kid and the 128's." The whole night was one surprise after another. Officer **Mike Fuller** was told Garth Brooks was going to put on a show, so he showed up with his achy breaky heart cowboy boots and

DIVISIONAL REPORTER



by Cathy Hardy
Metropolitan Division

Greetings from the hub. Happy Sweethearts Day to all! Here we are, 1999 is moving right along. The official countdown to Y2K has begun!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, here is the latest.

Star Movement

Congratulations to **Fernando Zuniga** (C-Pltn) and **Jeff Tepich** (D-Team). Ferni and Jeff were recently selected to the position of assistant squad leaders in their respective platoons.

Platoon Movement

Moving right along with platoon assignments, congrats to new SWAT element member **J. D. McDonald**. J. D. has traded in his police blue Wranglers for a 41-54 wardrobe. Just in case it was missed in SWAT school, D is for distance and P is for pager . . . welcome to standby!

From the Sports Desk

Congratulations to the winners of the Cabrillo Beach 10th Annual 32-mile Relay Race held on December 5th. Metro's participation fielded five teams, three from the Mounted Unit. A 1st place finish in the open category went to **Tom Chinappi, Rich Rakitis, Steve Gordon, Joe Martinez** (C Team), **Ivan Ramos, Jeff Wenninger, Lee McMillion and Neil Coward**. Finishing 1st place in the Senior category were the mounted unit team of **Ronnie Daniels, Mark Williams, Gerry Sola, Bob Valdez, George Lopez, Joe Willey, Gary Grubbs, and Pat Kouri**. Finishing 4th place in the open category (also from mounted) were **Mark Richardson, Rudy De Leon, Chris Amador, Jeff Miller, Jimmie Barlow, Andy Hudlett and Marc Rubio**. Tenth place Open Team included "Wrong Way Bob" **Donaldson, Bob Gallegos**,

Jr., **Hector Feliciano, Rudy Alaniz, John Harrison, Steve Eguchi, Malcolm Collier, and Larry Martinez**. Another mounted unit team consisting of **Joe Witty, Andy Pedersen, Terry Keenan, Ron Terrazas, Kevin Brawner, Ulysses Gasca, Joe "Nepo" Nepomuceno and Steve Beidle** finished up 11th place in the open category. Way to go guys!!

Maternity Ward

Pink is the color of choice of the Zipperman and Haines households. Congratulations to Lt. **Steve Zipperman** (Mounted Unit) and wife **Carrie** (Financial Crimes Division, formerly known as Bunco-Forgery) on the birth of their daughter Kara Elizabeth born on December 20th at 1547 hours, weighing in at 7.5 pounds and 20 inches long. Also celebrating in the pink are **Sgt. George Haines** (C-Team0 and wife **Melissa**. Elizabeth Selby Haines was born on December 30th weighing in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces. Congrats to the Haines family.

From the Dog House

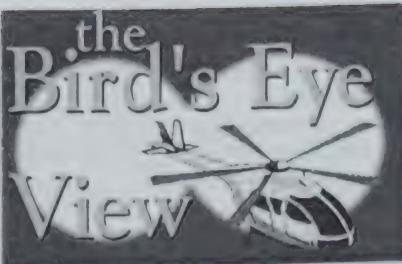
K9-83 "Koa" retired last year after a successful 5-year run with partner **Rich "Naga" toshi** and is now living the life of the family pet as do most retired LAPD canines. Koa spends his days playing with his best buddy Ryan and searching for a Mrs. Koa. Koa's successful career tallied up 608 searches which included 246 felony suspects. Koa was forced into early retirement and after suffering a severe injury to his nose at the hands of Adam Henry whom Koa was hot on the trail of, Adam Henry being a serial rapist and all. Koa did what he does best and the suspect was located and is now serving a prison term of 35 years to life. Stay tuned for updates on Koa's search for the ultimate female type German Shepherd!

Special Birthday Wishes

Happy, Happy Birthday to **Lauren Jones** (B-Team, Jr.) and **Ryan Nagatoshi** (K9, Jr.), two special little ones born on the sweetest day. Oh the wonderful threes!

Remember the mission . . . B-V 1999. Team Metro. Leadeth into the millennium!

R-10girl, clear.



by Dan Johnson
and Michelle Blackstone
Air Support Division

The Happenings at ASD

The ASD holiday party was a great success. Thanks to the station fund committee for all of their hard work. They did a great job with everything and everyone had a good time. Rumor has it that **John Mardesich** acquired a taste for cherry bombs, thanks to Judy the bartender.

In addition to the entertainment, we recognized some members of our ASD family. Officers **Bob Baker** and **Ken Phillippe** were awarded the 1998 Aircrew of the Year Award. This award is given to the most conscientious and productive aircrew and is voted on by the officers and supervisors. Great job guys. You deserve it!

Also presented that night was the 1998 Jay Stephan Hooper Award, which is an award for hard work and excellent, dedicated service to Air Support Division. The well deserved recipients of this award were Station Officers **John "Sgt. Major" Whitaker** and **Bill Correa**. Congratulations to you both. You have definitely earned it!

Congratulations

We would also like to offer congrats to our very own **Pete Gillies**, who is completing his pilot training and will receive his wings on January 22, 1999.

Also, we are very proud to announce the selection of pilot/officer **Jim Kilgore**, who has been recently selected as the ASD Safety Coordinator. Congratulations Jim, there's no doubt you will do an outstanding job.

Congrats also go out to TFO **Coley Maddigan**, who completed training and received his wings December 17, 1998. Coley's wings presentation was followed by a gourmet feast prepared by his family. All future wings parties will have a lot to live up to after that spread.

Welcome to ASD

Welcome to **Jerry Camporredondo**, who is transferring in as a new TFO from Training Division. Congratulations Jerry, we're happy to have you. Good luck in your training. You can stop taking those valium now, you don't have to be in the car training recruits how to drive police cars anymore!

We also wish to welcome our new secretary, **Ms. Petrona Johnson**. Welcome to Air Support Division and please let any of us know if we can do anything to help you settle in. Remember, there are plenty of strong backs with weak minds available to help you move into your new office! Just ask **Larry Chamberlain** or

Dan Hadfield for help, but don't let them handle any breakables.

In the Spirit of Christmas

Thanks to everyone who generously contributed to our adopted family during this holiday season. **Sgt. Ken Kessner** has unselfishly been the driving force in heading up the efforts to ensure that the Morales family had a merry Christmas. All of the ASD personnel went above and beyond the call, bringing several gifts, warm clothing, toys and even a couple of bicycles, granting some Christmas wishes for two terrific kids and some outstanding parents as well! Thanks to everyone, **Sgt. Kessner** was happy to report that the family was extremely appreciative and were overwhelmed by the caring of everyone. That's what it's all about!! An especially big thanks to **Sgt. Kessner**. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated. We will continue to assist the Morales family until the middle of the year, when we will choose another ASD adopted family.

Attention All Department Personnel

Anyone interested in coordinating travel arrangements for out-of-town investigations, administrative functions or prisoner transportation, please contact Special Flights section for assistance. ASD operates a Beechcraft King Air 200 Jet Prop with a non-stop operating range of 1,600 miles. The King Air can accommodate up to eight passengers and with its short field operating capability, can normally place you within minutes of your destination. Cruise airspeeds of 300 MPH at altitudes up to 30,000 feet, with no parking and boarding delays, means business can usually be completed in one working day or less. Passenger features include a pressurized cabin, club seating with fold out desks, a restroom and a galley. For additional information or to schedule a flight, give us a call at 2800 . . . ask for Special Flights.

ASD Tip o the Month

When approaching a location, understandably, you don't want to park right in front, but on the flip side of that, if you are not afforded a lot of cover between you and the location, use your car for cover. It would be a lot safer for you to make an approach from a shorter distance, having your vehicle to use as cover, than to park eight houses away and make your approach. You can't see the suspect, but **ALWAYS** assume he can see you!! In addition to the cover aspect, if you are parked so far away from the call and you need help, everyone is going to be looking for your car, it could cause a delay in the response of your help if everyone shows up and stacks up behind your shop while you're fighting with a bad guy a half a block away. You now have a traffic jam and no clear route for help to get through. Stay safe. You folks are doing a great job out there and it is always our pleasure to be of assistance to you.

Always watch your six. . . .

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VAN NUYS Happenings

by Bob Rose
Van Nuys Division

Well, here it is February and I am just getting around to the January transfers... such is the life of a reporter. **Ron Allen's**



Wolfgang von Hundertmark.

son, Scott, skated from Athens, Georgia to Atlanta and took 31st out of 110 entrants. Another confirmed surfer and bachelor, **Wolfgang von Hundertmark**,

cated. Great snoopin' and poopin' by Shanahan and Mendez. Now that's real police work. Super job guys. Take notice all you young coppers on how real police work is done!

Want another good 211 caper? Just keep reading on. A radio call came out of a 211 in progress at one of our local pubs and **Greg Greeley** and **Jedd Levin** responded. Greeley broadcast a description of the suspect and further advised the suspect was armed with a handgun. Greeley and Levin began checking the area when they observed the idiot suspect running past a donut shop. What? No cops at the donut shop? Not this time, but we did have an airship overhead who observed the suspect running and then jump over a 7-foot fence. Officers got a perimeter set up with the airship keeping an eye view on the suspect. With the suspect in the rear yard, Officers **Carol Hughes**, **Vince Chan** and **William Dunn** went in after the suspect. Go get him guys!! The suspect took one look at the officers and thought, "Oh #!@#" and took off. But, of course, our West Valley officers weren't going to let this little idiot get away, and, you guessed it, the fight was on. After a little wrestling match and rolling around on the ground, the suspect was taken into custody. You guys did an outstanding job in taking this moron down! Isn't it great to do *pro-active police work* instead of *re-active police work*? West Valley you are doing great work out there. Keep it up and don't let this department beat you down.

Our Christmas party this year was a smashing success. We had Jay Leno for entertainment, and he was fabulous. We even sold out on tickets for the party. Everyone had a great time eating, drinking, socializing, drinking, dancing, drinking, oops said that already, and recuperating. Hope next year's party is just as great as this one was. Thank you West Valley station fund for putting together a dynamite party!

Until next month, everyone be safe and back each other up. This is 10A3 and I'm clear and EOW!

our fine Sgt. 2, announced his free-wheeling days will end next June 12 with his marriage and DARE's P.O.-3 **Linda Cardenas**.

Lt. Al Dravidzus has let it be known that unless I get my facts straight, or do more research, I may be speaking with a very high voice. Hey, Al, all in fun, right good buddy... anyway, I do know that our Capt. **Val Paniccia** will now be known as Commander Val Paniccia and will somehow find his way two stories up the Valley Bureau. We got two new sergeants in **Quinn** and **Artes**. Welcome to Van Nuys. Rumor has it that our new patrol captain will be **Robert McNamara**. Isn't this the guy who lost the Vietnam War, then copped out on himself? No, that was another Robert McNamara. Whew... Capt. **Kyle Jackson** also left for BAD, and Lt. **Kane** will now be running things on the second floor detectives. All of us in patrol got together and bought Sgt. **Bill Justice** a map so he could find his way down the hall to Valley Traffic so he can get back on his motor and enjoy life. **Jennifer Hickman** just could not wait for us to slice off the north end of the division for Devonshire, so she bugged out a month early. **Chris McKinney** shipped out to North Hollywood, **Nine Seliktar** went to Rampart, **Elaina Barba** to Southwest, and **Neal Wank** to Wilshire, **John Baker** and **Villegas** to West Valley. To replace these, brand new on the job are **Carlos Lozano**,

Antonio Martin, **Isela Mora**, and **Ed Yates**. **Trent Berry** sure looks good with the star on his arm as our newest senior lead. **Steve Cooper**, **Linda Gotham** and **Jennifer Hammer** all sew on new P-3 stripes. **Carl Oschmann** and **Jing-Yu-Chao** came to us to make P-3. Good luck to all.

The annual Foothill Station to Devonshire Station relay race was held, and although **Maynard Koeller** thought they had a lock on the run this year, **Bruce Vermaat** organized a bunch of very talented runners and literally ran away with this year's race. **Bob Denton** joined **Jim Rigney**, **Tom Bibbs** and a group of ten for the annual Elk Hunt in Colorado. This group bagged some 130 pounds of meat. Another group with **Ed Evans** and **Ron Carpenter** did bag a duck. Ron was so proud of this duck that he mounted the head on Jim's pickup. Well, if that's all you got, you do the best you can with what you got.



Tim Saurman, Jeremy Lux and Zocan Mako - Jeremy Lux receiving award for Miller Nissan for their outstanding support of the Van Nuys Bicycle Unit.

Tim Saurman and **Zocan Mako** reported that Miller Nissan has provided much needed support for our

Bicycle Unit. If this is not the most productive bike unit in the city, I sure would like to hear who is. Sgt. **Bill McAllister** and troops deserve an



Ron Carpenter and Sgt. Savala at another divisional BBQ. Ron did not have any elk meat for this event - again.

atta-boy from all. I have heard that Sgt. **Savala** may be leaving. Stop him. Who is going to organize and cook our BBQs?

The Van Nuys parking structure is moving right along. Or the Watts Towers is now second to the Van Nuys Towers.

Tim Grabe announced that he is the proud father of Jessie Marie Grabe, and mom and daughter are doing fine, except for a little lack of sleep that is... okay, maybe now I will get somewhat organized and caught up.

Last... **Craig Kitchener** informed me that he has been rewarded for all of his outstanding police work by being selected Van Nuys Officer of the Year. Good work, Craig. Looking forward to seeing your mug on the wall.

More Divisional Reporter on next page

Because Your Life May Depend On It...

You can now get the information you need to make sure you're in top physical condition and not worry about the cost. This year there's a new and valuable benefit to Los Angeles Police Retirement Association (LAPRA) active members who have chosen Blue Cross of California Prudent Buyer (PPO) as their health plan. If you're among that group, you're entitled to an annual comprehensive health and fitness evaluation at Centinela Hospital's Fitness Institute. Valued at \$950, this benefit is provided with no out-of-pocket cost to you.

This evaluation, which goes beyond the standard mix of x-rays and blood tests, is supervised by a physician board certified in preventive medicine who performs an all-inclusive physical examination, which includes:

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This examination is available at no cost to active LAPRA members only. Although this benefit is not provided for spouses, Centinela Hospital's Fitness Institute offers this comprehensive evaluation to LAPRA spouses for \$525, a 45% discount from our standard rates.

DIVISIONAL REPORTER

18 SOUTHEAST

by Al Labrada
Southeast Division

In Memory Of...

The month of December is usually filled with stories of strange vacations and wild events at Christmas parties.



Lieutenant Victor Manuel Guzman as WC at South Traffic.

However, this month it is with great sorrow that we bid farewell to a highly respected 30-year veteran of this Department and most of all Southeast Division. Recently, we mentioned Lt. **Victor Guzman**'s 30-year anniversary and preparations for his much deserved retirement party. Lt. Guzman's experience included several supervisory positions in patrol, vice, homicide, Southeast Detectives and traffic with a total span of 30 years. Lt. Guzman passed away on December 19, 1998 after a long struggle with coronary complications. Hundreds attended his funeral, which was held at St. Anthony Church in El Segundo. He had full Department honors. Lt. Guzman was also an Army veteran. His strong command presence, approachable personality and his vast knowledge will surely be missed. We extended our sincere condolences to his surviving family, wife Sharon, sons Don, Joey and Vinny.

Attaboy

Although brave actions are not recognized as often as they should be, I would like to share a recent award received by one of the senior P-III officers here at Southeast, Officer **F. Pinzon**. Officer Pinzon, being as modest as usual, kept his recent awarding of the Police Star a secret; however, with some digging, searching, lying and research, here it is:

Working a uniformed security detail for the Los Angeles Marathon, Officers

Floro Pinzon and Rafael Acosta were assigned a footbeat at the Memorial Sports Arena. Without warning, a 6 foot, 6 inch, 205 pound male punched Officer Pinzon in the face, knocking him to the



Officer Floro Pinzon receiving the police star for bravery.

ground. Before Officer Acosta could react, the suspect punched him, also knocking him down. As Officer Acosta fell to the ground, the suspect grabbed at his holster in an attempt to disarm him. As the struggle ensued, Officer Pinzon regained his balance and utilized his baton



10th Annual Cabrillo Beach Run Southeast first and second place team.

to subdue the suspect. After several blows, Officer Pinzon realized his baton was ineffective and approached the suspect from behind to attempt an upper body control hold. The suspect stood up and lifted Officer Pinzon off the ground, then threw him down, and reached for his gun. Officer Pinzon clamped down on his holster and tried to activate his radio help button. Officer Acosta had now stood up and drawn his weapon. The suspect spun around and grabbed the barrel and slide of Acosta's weapon. During the struggle, Officer Pinzon dropped to one knee and fired one round downward, striking the suspect in the upper torso. Simultaneously, Officer Acosta fired one round, also striking the suspect in the upper torso. The suspect died at the scene. For their bravery and strength of will in preventing harm to others at a heavily-attended event, in the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Police Star is awarded to: Officer Floro Pinzon and Officer Rafael Acosta.

Lt. Debra McCarthy, Sgt. II Kathy Meek, Sgt. Elaine Morales, Sgt. Evy Arocho, Sgt. Angela McGee, Det. I Anna Carlisle, Officers Jody Ono, Melissa Quintana, Noelle Lovin, Catherine Sobieski, Meredith Swisher, Becky Zufall, Crystal Hayes and Megan Glaister.

Southeast Actions

We had several events here at Southeast in the month of December, like the Christmas party, Christmas basket program, and the Beach run. I wanted to include photos from the Christmas party, but due to the possible administrative actions, I chose to keep them out. It was a great party put on by the Southeast get down committee which included Officer Landsman, Lt. Shields, Lt. McCarthy, and gone but not forgotten, Officer Ruby Malachi. This year's event was held at Ports O' Call Restaurant in the San Pedro Harbor. The guest of honor was none other than Jay Leno, who put on a great show for everyone. Numerous door prizes were given during the raffle including a new .45 and a Remington shotgun of which I won none. The attendance was over three hundred well dressed, well fed and some boozed Department representatives. The highlight of the event was having to push start Senior Lead Officer Yoda's classic convertible from the parking lot due to high levels of electrical malfunctions from the highly sensitive machine.

The second order of high recognition events was the unusual moves going on the dance floor which looked more like tactical building searches than dance moves. Overall it was an eventful party with no negative results (No 1:28's, reported).

Speaking of recognition, Sgt. of Police Jeff Hamilton, I can't disclose serial

number, recently celebrated 15 wonderful years with the department. He made a special point to scold and bring to light the fact that I did not mention him as a 15-year veteran. With all due respect, after all them years I was surprised he was still able to remember he had 15 years on the job. Sgt., just jiving. Congratulations on the 15.

Christmas in Watts

This year's annual Christmas basket program was a huge success. Over 350 baskets, which included all the necessary items for an entire Christmas dinner, including a turkey. Officers involved in the program collected donations from various sponsors then purchased the items needed. Community volunteers and Southeast officers then assembled the baskets. The baskets were then distributed to the pre-selected needy families within Southeast. The event was a huge success due to the efforts of Capt. Bonneau, Capt. Tatreau, Sgt. Maillet, Sgt. Hamilton, SLO Starkey, SLO Ramirez, SLO Sandoz, SLO Labrada, SLO Corea, SLO Goens, SLO Chavez, SLO Chong, SLO Thompson, Officers Ono, Moreno, Kim, Cotter, Koskelin, Herrera, Davila, and Kim. Thanks to all the patrol officers that helped make the deliveries. It was a great success.

New Years

Southeast once again led the city with arrests and guns recovered during New Year's. We were treated to the annual all you can eat steak dinner by the Southeast Business Boosters. Right out of roll call everyone ate well and was ready to go. Southeast CRASH and mid-PMs with the outstanding prior training by Lt. Shields, Sgt. Clark, Sgt. Batts, Sgt. Landrum and Sgt. Zarcone prepared to apprehend the ignorant air shooters. Success was the key word with 13 recovered weapons including the bodies attached to them. This is not to mention the numerous guns that were recovered prior to the festive year through search warrants and extra enforcement. As always, it was amazing to see the teamwork displayed by the supervision, CRASH, PM Watch and the mid-PM watch units. An amazing task was again done with no injuries (at least not to officers).

Oops

I would like to also bid a get-well to the poor vehicle that Officer Owens injured the day he ran into it on his bike. Apparently Officer Owens, while maneuvering himself around Southeast's C-37 vehicle traffic did not see a turning vehicle and collided with it even after numerous watch outs by his ever-vigilant partners. We are happy to say that the vehicle is okay and so is Officer Owens. We recommended he get a remedial bike school, say two weeks.

Southeast Movement

A farewell to Wilshire's newest sergeant and my comrade, **Mike Flanagan**, who left Southeast as an SLO. Although he never had a promotion party and slipped out, we wish him well. Farewell to Vice Officer **Stan Young**, who leaves us for an FTO position in Central Division. Off to Training Division to train recruits are Officers **Mike Acosta** and **Ruby Malachi**.

Congratulations to the new P-2 **D. Nava** who leaves for 77th Division. Farewell to Officer **R. Gurrola** (Pacific), Officer **L. Lopez** (Wilshire), Officer **A. Martinez** (WTD), and last, but not least, **K. Garcia** (EODD).

Welcome to our newest P-2s Officer **R. Campos** (Newton), Officer **B. Bonney** (Pacific), Officer **A. Delatorre** (Pacific), Officer **O. Olmos** (TRSG) and Officer **R. Rodriguez** (Wilshire). Our newest P-1s include Officer **C. Andrade**, Officer **C. Escobar**, Officer **S. Juarez**, Officer **K. Lang**, Officer **D. Meinhardt**, and Officer **D. Mitchell**.

INCOME TAX PREPARATION

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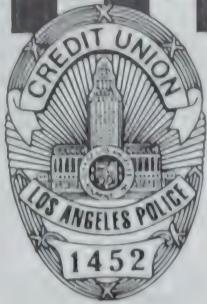
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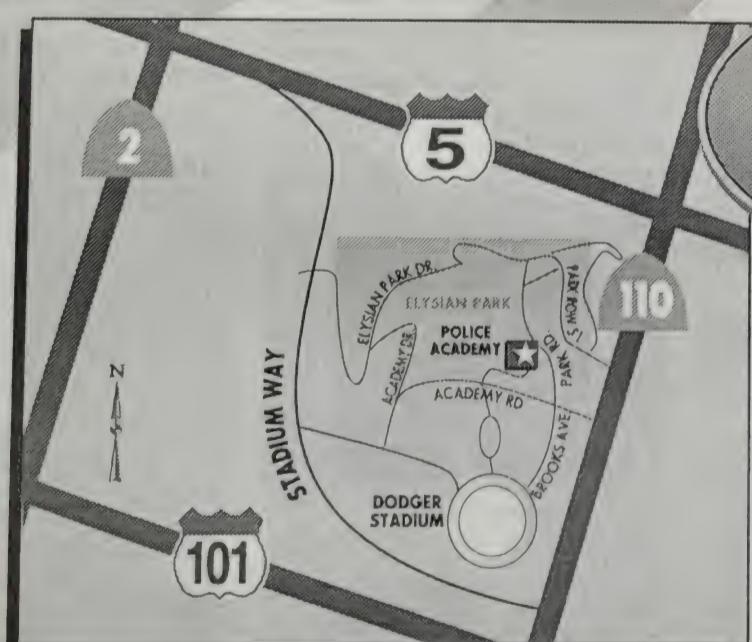
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SPORTS BEAT

Sports Beat is a regular feature of *The Thin Blue Line*. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 4 of this issue or you can call the Sports Beat Info Line at (323) 221-5222, ext 800.

Festive Evening Highlights Tribute To LAPD's Best Athletes

by Lew Snow
LAPRAAC Sports Editor

Take one part tragedy, three parts comedy, one part camaraderie, mix them with a scrumptious buffet dinner, then bake them with tradition . . . the result: one of the most successful Sports Awards Dinners in recent history.

This year's edition of LAPRAAC's annual event, first held in 1954 (when Eisenhower was president and the Santa Ana Freeway took you only as far as Downey), held on Friday, December 4, at the Elysian Park Academy, proved to be a fitting tribute to the best in LAPD athletics.

Sgt. Ron Moen's stirring invocation touched upon the tragedy of the evening, asking for a moment of silence in memory of two fallen heroes . . . Pacific Officer Brian Brown, senselessly cut down in the line of duty a few days prior to the dinner . . . and Sherman Block, who had been a strong supporter of law enforcement athletics in his 16 years as Los Angeles County Sheriff.

In a "Tribute to Television" special guests this year were Fox 11 reporter/anchor Christine Devine and KNBC sports anchor Fred Roggin. Devine unintentionally started off the comedy by saying how nervous she was . . . and that in public speaking classes they tell people the best way to get over their nervousness is to imagine the audience in their underwear. Her observation, "So I'm standing here imagining the Chief in his underwear," brought down the house.

Roggan continued on that theme, bringing more attention to the Chief's underwear than could ever be imagined. He also brought along a special edition of his "Hall of Shame" TV program, which had the packed Academy gym rocking with laughter.

Comedian Larry Omaha had a tough act to follow, but the former civil rights investigator, ex-cabby, and one-time radio personality proved up to the task and had the audience rolling in the aisles with his insight into the similarities and multi-cultural America.

LAPRAAC Secretary/Treasurer Mike Sayre opened the evening (subbing for President Bob Gale, who was out IOD) by reflecting upon the history of the Elysian Park facility, which has been in use for over 65 years. Rampart's Lupita Alaniz, half of last year's recruit duet, returned this year to sing the national anthem following presentation of the colors by the LAPD Color Guard. Returning to emcee the awards ceremonies was the man with the golden voice, KFWB's Pete Demetriou.

Dinner Committee Chair Steve Estrada and his committee members (Tony Adler, Gene Arreola, Debbie Chamberlain, Brenda Crump, Barbara Ginn, Kim Jones and Debbie Myers-Moeller) succeeded in providing a fun-filled evening of camaraderie and, like Larry Omaha, will be a hard act to follow for next year's event.

RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AS ATHLETES AND SPORTSPERSONS:

Intra-Departmental Basketball

Winner of the Captain Al Nelson Tournament for the fifth straight year, and first place in the Bill Ellis League, LAPD champion Parker Center (coached by Eric Moore). Undefeated in Bill Ellis League play 77th Street Division (Bob Rivers). Danny Roberts Tournament champion for



Bob Rivers, Coach of 77th Division's Basketball Team, winners of the Bill Ellis League.



Sammy Martin, Capt. Al Nelson Intra-Departmental Athlete of the Year.



LAPRAAC Trophy, LAPD Red Softball Team Coach Jack Martin.

LAPRAAC Trophy

The LAPD Red Softball Team (coached by Jack Martin) has slowly improved until it now dominates its sport . . . by heads up play, physical prowess, unselfish teamwork, and good sportsmanship. Gold medal winner at the California Police Games, they went 80-15 for the year and won five tournaments.

Chief's Award

Whether they win or lose . . . most of the time they win . . . the LAPD Trap and Skeet Team (coached by Jimmy Trahan) has a distinguished reputation. Its superior sportsmanship has generated an unequalled camaraderie among competitors throughout the United States and at the World Games. They



Todd Patino, Capt. Al Nelson Intra-Departmental Athlete of the Year.



LAPD Trap and Skeet Team, Chief's Award.

First at Rampart, then last year at Van Nuys, now back at Rampart . . . which not only recaptured the title but was undefeated for the season.

Intra-Departmental Coach of the Year

Andy Markel (basketball) is one helluva strategist and leader. His Van Nuys hoopsters, a dynamic and cohesive squad created from an eclectic mix of youngsters and "banged-up old-timers," went undefeated in league and tournament play.



Andy Markel, Intra-Departmental Coach of the Year.

Coach of the Year

In the four years Todd Cataldi has coached the Rampart softball squad, his teams have gone undefeated in two of those seasons, and have won three Red Davis Tournaments. Despite numerous personnel changes that play havoc with fielding a top-notch team, Todd's ability to motivate his players to give their best is unparalleled.



Todd Cataldi, Coach of the Year.

continued on next page

Festive Evening Highlights Tribute To LAPD's Best Athletes

continued from page 42



LAPRAAC Athletic Director Tony Adler with Citizen of the Year, Kenny Taniguchi.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (40 years), founder of L.A.'s first marathon, founder of the Griffith Park Cross-Country Run . . . have meant so much to the city as a whole that future outstanding citizens will be honored with the Kenny Taniguchi Citizen of the Year Award.

Bill Stein Award

(For service, dedication and support of LAPRAAC)

In civilian life **Joe Valverde** is the owner of a well-respected construction firm. As a long-time supporter of the Sheriff's Department he helped create the "Fight for Life" boxing matches between LAPD and LASD, which help raise money for the City of Hope. Vice President of the World Boxing Hall of Fame, he is an ardent member and volunteer with the Officer Needs Help Foundation and has worked tirelessly to help raise funds to assist people like Rampart Officer Diane Alonso with her fight against leukemia.



Joe Valverde, Bill Stein Award.

Brass Award

Capt. **Rich Wemmer**'s support of LAPD athletics shows no bounds. Whether on the softball field, basketball court, or race course; as past president and past member of the LAPRAAC board; or as a captain running some of the busiest divisions in the department, his commitment to the physical well being of his men and women is legendary.



Rich Wemmer, Brass Award.

Bob Pullard Trophy

(Awarded to an athlete returning to action after recovery from a devastating injury)

Winner of the Coach of the Year Award in 1993, Pacific's Softball Coach **Jerry Bautista** was critically injured in an on-duty traffic accident over four years ago. He was so badly hurt that doctors said only a miracle could save him. When he made it through the night they said only a miracle could keep him

from being crippled. Well, miracles do happen, as evidenced by return to work one year after the accident. Since his return he has proved an inspiration . . . motivating his team to a first place finish in this year's South League play.



Jerry Bautista, Bob Pullard Trophy.

Open Athlete of the Year

In three short years **Marisa Frial** has made her mark. In basketball she is a key player on the women's team, competing at both the California and Las Vegas Police Olympics, and playing point guard for Harbor. She is a strong cross-country competitor, running the Baker to Vegas race as well as helping Rampart take second at the Memorial Relay.



Marisa Frial, Open Athlete of the Year.

Senior Athlete of the Year

An integral part of the Women's Basketball team **Shari Biggs** was a crucial element in winning a silver at the California Games and gold at the Las Vegas Olympics . . . and is one of the few women who compete on an intra-departmental team (West Valley). Not a one-dimensional athlete, Shari is also a feared tennis player and took a first place in a recent bench press meet.



Shari Biggs, Senior Athlete of the Year.

Teresa Dougherty won one silver and two gold medals at the Arizona Police Games and two golds at the California Police Summer Games. She is a member of the Strings tennis team and participates in U.S. Tennis Association events. Teresa's outstanding sportsmanship makes her one of the top law enforcement tennis players anywhere.



Teresa Dougherty, Senior Athlete of the Year.

Captain, coach and coordinator of the LAPD Ski Team for the last seven years, **Mike Braun** is known for his teambuilding skills and his prowess on the slopes. At the California Winter

Games at Mammoth Mountain he was recognized as the best overall skier, winning or placing in all events.



Mike Braun, Senior Athlete of the Year.

Daryl F. Gates Master Athlete of the Year

Dan Labrada is a charter member of the Fastpitch team. He will soon begin his 19th year behind the plate, still going strong at the ripe old age of 49! Despite bad knees and constant pain, he played in almost every game, leading the team by hitting .452 and serving as a father-figure to younger players on the squad.



Dan Labrada, Daryl F. Gates Master Athlete of the Year.

Grand Master Athlete of the Year

In police shooting there is just no one better than **John Pride**. He is the only LAPD officer to ever win an individual National Championship . . . and he's done that three times. This year, five years past his retirement, John not only won the individual title, but also won the Semi-Auto Open Pistol and Distinguished Revolver championships.



John Pride, Grand Master Athlete of the Year.



Hall of Fame

Celebrating 25 years as a cop, **Ray Lombardo** has spent all but one playing and coaching softball. A 22-year veteran of the "Blue" team, he is currently player-coach of the LAPD Lawmen. This year he showed true grit by coming back from a life-threatening injury to earn MVP honors and lead the Lawmen to a second place finish.



Ray Lombardo, Hall of Fame Inductee.

Sportsman of the Year

Bart Landsman has either played or coached softball every season, and participated in every California Summer Games, since joining the department in 1981. He is an accomplished racquetball player (currently reigning World Police



Bart Landsman, Sportsman of the Year.

and Fire Games champ) as well as the top dog in California, Nevada and Arizona. But most of all he is a true gentleman both on and off the field of play.



Todd Reingold accepting Metro Division Award for the Danny Roberts Tournament.



Metro Division Baker to Vegas Champs and winners of the Bob Burke All-Sports Trophy.

Bob Burke All Sports Trophy

Perpetual winner **Metro Division** personifies the spirit of this award. First place in the Danny Roberts basketball tourney, first place at Baker to Vegas and four different first place teams at the Memorial Relay (open, golden masters, heavyweight and supervisors). If there's an LAPD sports event you can be guaranteed Captain Rodger Coombs will have a busload of folks there, and his competitors will finish in the top three.



More Sports Beat on next page

SPORTS BEAT

Ski Team Kicks Off '99 Season

Even though temperatures reached 80 degrees on New Year's Day, it's cold up in the mountains and Old Man Winter is definitely here.

The LAPD Ski Team actually started the season almost three months ago when Mammoth Mountain opened in early November. Team members have been to

with a scheduled weekend training at Mammoth.

Race season is fast approaching with events scheduled in Snowmass, Colorado (North American Police Ski Championships), Whistler, Canada (International Police Winter Games), and Mammoth (California Police/Fire



1998 Ski Team.

race camps, a team party, and even a race training day locally at Mountain High. New members took advantage of the learn-to-race program with some great successes. This is a great way for newcomers to get their feet wet, so to speak.

Mike Braun and Rick Conrado assisted the Mountain High Race Department with coaching, personal pointers and equipment advice. It was great to see some new racers of all abilities, even some who could tear out the gates with flair. This was just the first of three race training days at Mountain High, along

Olympics). The team is very excited about the upcoming events and can't wait to attack the race courses.

The LAPD Ski Team has grown so much over the past years it almost needs to hire a secretary to manage everything. However, seriously interested new racers are always welcome with open arms. Anyone who wants to ski race in competitions against police officers from around the world should call Mike Braun at Hollywood Vice (x52811) or Rick Conrado at Northeast Vice (x53150).

POLICE OFFICER (Lateral or Academy Graduate) City of Santa Rosa.

Salary: \$4162-\$5059 effective 1-3-99

Additional compensation for: Special Response Unit 1%; FTO 2.5%; Motorcycle Bonus 2.5%; and Bi-Lingual Pay (2 levels) 2%-3% of base monthly salary; POST incentive pay - \$40 Intermediate, \$75 Advance; City paid 9% PERS; 4/10 work week; paid life insurance; and other excellent benefits. Qualified laterals may be eligible for appointment up to the 5th step in the salary range commensurate with experience, education, training, and POST certificates.

Minimum qualifications: Currently enrolled in or completion of a California Basic Academy within the last 2 years; possess, or eligible to possess, a California POST Basic Certificate and currently, or within the past 12 months, employed for a minimum of 1 year as a California Peace Officer.

If you are interested in pursuing a career with a modern, progressive, mid-sized (166 sworn) police department located in the heart of the Sonoma County wine country, contact the City of Santa Rosa Human Resources Department at (707) 543-3060, or call Debbie Houser in the Police Department at (707) 543-3566, or the recruiting hotline (800) 675-6554.

Applications may be obtained from the City of Santa Rosa Human Resources Department, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, California, 95404.

This is a continuous examination. The final filing date has not yet been established. EOE

<http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/pd/santarosapd.htm>

L.A.P.D. CENTURIONS 1999 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

March 6	Ft. Worth	Home
March 20	South Bay	There
April 3	San Diego	Home
April 17	Houston	There
May 15	LAFD	There

1999 RUN AGAINST CRIME 10K & 5K WALK/RUN SUNDAY, FEB. 28, 1999

Sponsored by the Wilshire Community Police Council and the LAPD-Wilshire Community Police Station

6:30 a.m. Registration
5K 8:00 a.m. Start
10K 8:30 a.m. Start

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Law Enforcement Team Registration

Law enforcement teams entering the Baker to Vegas Relay are invited to participate and are eligible for special entry fees. Teams of 10 or more receive a 25 percent discount off registration fees. Teams should mail all registrations and fees at one time. However, fees may be paid individually or by one check. Team members are eligible for trophies in individual categories as well as the team division. Winning team is determined by the total time of the fastest 10 team members.

Pre-Register by Mail

Entry fees are \$20 for pre-registered participants and \$150 for teams of ten. Each additional team member is \$15. Registration includes T-shirt. Mail the following registration form and correct entry fee to arrive by Feb. 7 to: Run Against Crime, c/o Wilshire Community Police Council, P.O. Box 19586, Los Angeles, CA 90019

Late Registrations

Registrations mailed after Feb. 7 are \$25 for each participant or \$200 for teams of ten. Each additional team member is \$20. Day-of-race registration fees are the same as late registration fees. Day-of-race registration begins at 6:30 a.m.

Race Packets/Parking

Pick up your race packets, including your run number, long- or short-sleeved T-shirt and a complementary "goodie" bag with gifts from our sponsors, in the Farmers Insurance Group parking lot at Wilshire and Mullen beginning at 6:30 a.m. the day of the race.

Staging Area

Runners will line up at the starting line in front of the Farmers Insurance building on Wilshire just east of Rimpau. Walkers are asked to line up toward the back of the staging area to allow the runners to start first.

1999 RUN AGAINST CRIME Entry Form

Complete a separate entry form for each runner

Name _____ First _____ Last _____

Sex _____ Age on Race Day _____ Birthdate _____

T-Shirt Choice Youth S M L XL (Circle one) Office Use Only _____

Address _____ Act No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

WAIVER: As an entrant in the Run Against Crime, I waive all claims against the organizers, sponsors, personnel and volunteers for any injury I might suffer in this event. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission to organizers to use photographs, videotapes or other records of me in legitimate accounts and promotion for this event.

Participant's Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____
(for participants younger than 18)

TEAM MEMBERS PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Team Name _____

Team Captain's Name _____

IF YOU ARE A TEAM CAPTAIN, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Address _____

Telephone _____

How many members on your team? _____

Total enclosed _____

Make checks payable to: Wilshire Community Police Council and mail to: Run Against Crime, c/o Wilshire Community Police Council, P.O. Box 19586, Los Angeles, CA 90019

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L.A. Bullets Ice Hockey

by Tom Wich

The Bullets teams have reached the halfway point of the season and it looks like all three teams will again be playing in the post season. The Bullets #1 team will be playing the elite LAFD/LACFD

March 7-12th. We are also planning on entering a police/fire tournament to be played in Anaheim later this month. For those of you that would like to come out and watch the teams in league action, contact Matt Jarosak, Denny Gilbertor Lori Real.

The following is the schedule for the



1998/1999 Bullets #1 Team: Top Row (left to right): John Knighton, Bobby Devereaux, Matt Jarosak, Frank Kenney, Pete Schafer, Doug Decesare, John Devereaux and Tom Gallager. Bottom Row (left to right): Mark Wilkens, Dave Knighton, Jerry Velona, Jeff Quinlan and Tom Wich.

at the Forum on Saturday, February 6th at 3:00 p.m. prior to the Kings/San Jose Sharks game, which starts at 7:30 p.m. There will be enough time between games for us to have a tailgate party. Tickets are \$25 apiece and are good for both games. The proceeds will go to each department's memorial funds. In addition, for each ticket purchased you will receive a Kings baseball cap. Contact Matt Jarosak at 485-2600 for further information.

All three teams will attend this year's International Winter Police Olympics to be held at Whistler resort, just outside of Vancouver. The games will be held

number 1 & 2 teams that play in Burbank. For those of you that live in Orange County you can see the number 3 team play in Anaheim (contact Lori Real).

These games are played on Sunday evening:

- 2/2/99 the #1 team plays at 6:30 p.m., the #2 team plays at 9:30 p.m.
- 2/14/99 #1 plays at 6:30 p.m., #2 plays at 9:30 p.m.
- 2/21/99 #1 plays at 8:00 p.m., #2 plays at 9:30 p.m.
- 2/28/99 #1 plays at 8:00 p.m., #2 plays at 6:30 p.m.
- 3/7/99 #1 plays at 6:30 p.m., #2 plays at 9:30 p.m.

Police Rodeo Season Opens Soon

by John Weaver

You might not believe it but there really is a Police rodeo season in Southern California. The National Police Rodeo Association (NPRA) sanctions six to eight events each year, held primarily in the Southern California and Las Vegas areas. Police officers, firefighters and their immediate family members are eligible for membership in the NPRA.

For those unfamiliar with the sport, NPRA rodeos consist of a wide variety of events, including most "standard" rodeo events. In addition NPRA rodeos include five or six events that are certainly interesting and do not require rodeo experience (or even a horse).

If you have ever competed in rodeo and want to do so again, be sure to contact the

NPRA Rodeo office at (760) 244-4646 to get information and/or a membership application. If you're new to rodeo or just want information, you can call the same number and leave your name, address, or phone number. Someone will call back to assist you.

The 1999 NPRA Rodeo Schedule Includes:

March 27 Hesperia Rodeo (one day)
May 1-2 Las Vegas Rodeo
May 30-31 Ventura Rodeo
July 3-4 Big Bear Rodeo (tentative)
August 21 Nevada Police Olympics (Las Vegas)
Sept. 18-19 Simi Valley Rodeo
Sept. 25 Chino Rodeo
Oct. TBA NPRA Finals Rodeo

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More Sports Beat on next page

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SPORTS BEAT

Interested in playing
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Are you at least 35 years old???

The Department 35 and over "Gray" Softball
Team needs dedicated and talented ball
players to round out the 1999 team.
If you are interested or have any questions,
contact either:
Lou Leiker, SBH at (213) 237-1310
or Bart Landsman, S/E at 485-6924.

LOS ANGELES POLICE GOLF ASSOCIATION ATTENTION: ACTIVE AND RETIRED LAPD GOLFERS

THE LOS ANGELES POLICE GOLF ASSOCIATION (LAPGA) IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN US AT OUR BI-MONTHLY GOLF TOURNAMENTS, WHICH ARE HELD ON ALTERNATE THURSDAYS.

THE MAJORITY OF THE TOURNAMENTS ARE SCHEDULED AT VARIOUS GOLF COURSES IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY, ORANGE, RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES.

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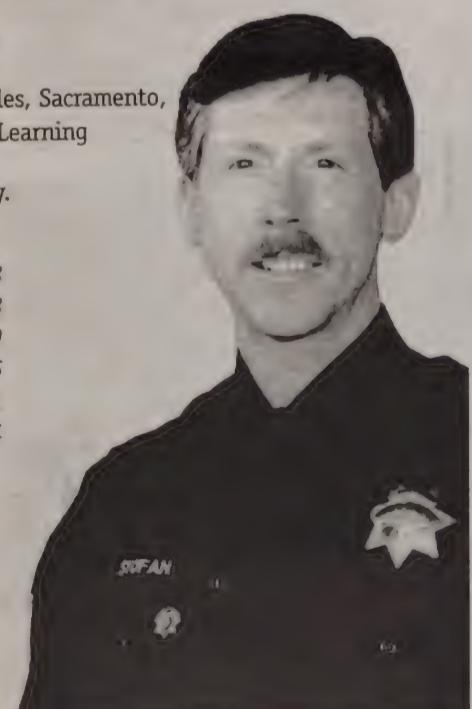
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LAPD Shooters Make Governor's Top Twenty List

by Rick Bennett

At the end of every pistol season each shooter has his/her match scores averaged against all of the other competitors in the state. To gain a statewide ranking a shooter must participate in at least 10 out of the season's 18 matches.

The top 20 shooters are recognized by the State Legislature and are designated "the California Governor's Twenty." This year eight members of the LAPD Pistol Team achieved that designation, including three of the top five positions.

Honored as Members of the Governor's Twenty

RANK	NAME	AVG
2	John Pride	1494
4	Rick Bennett	1491
5	Bob Barnes	1491
9	Roger Rampton	1488
12	Lou Salseda	1487
17	Dean Gizioni	1483
18	Don Tsunawaki	1482

1999 Police Pistol Schedule of Events

Mar 27	Governor's 20 Banquet (location to be announced)	Aug 27-28	CPPA State Match/NRA Regional at San Diego
Mar 27,28	LAPD/LAPD Reserves at Long Beach	Sep 17-18	Magnolia Classic at Pearl, Mississippi
Apr 11	Jack's Match at Sacramento County	Sep 20-24	National Police Shooting Championships at Jackson, Mississippi
Apr 16-18	Riverside Sheriffs/ Reserves at San Diego		
Apr 17	Postal at Sacramento County		

Participants in Action Pistol Match Donate 50 Toys for Needy Children

Forty shooters descended upon the Elysian Park Academy Range on Sunday, December 4, to participate in the first-ever LAPRAAC Action Pistol Match. Coordinated by Bill Parmelee (ably assisted by Lou Salseda, Tony Huerstel and Chris Christensen), the match consisted of three individual stages and one team stage of fire.

Greg Duran took first place in the individual event with the duo of John Tom and Ron Algren winning the team category. In addition to a fine day of shooting and camaraderie, participants brought 50 wrapped toys that were donated for distribution to needy children.

Top Individual Shooters

1st Place	Greg Duran
2nd Place	Ron Algren
3rd Place	Neil Coward
4th Place	John Tom
5th Place	Eric Bixler

Top Female Shooter: Stacy Lim
Top Reserve Shooter: Todd Moore

Top Teams

1st Place	John Tom/Ron Algren 37.18 pts
2nd Place	Stacy Lim/Mary Hodges 37.65 pts
3rd Place	Chu/Duran 37.75 pts
4th Place	Tyler/Joh 38.99 pts
5th Place	Bixler/DeArmo 39.48 pts

Top Female Team:
Stacy Lim/Mary Hodges

Top Reserve Team:
Todd Moore/ Fernando Macias



SPORTS BEAT INFO LINE

(323) 221-5222, ext. 800
(Note new area code due to 213 split)

KEEP UP TO DATE
ON THE LATEST IN LAPD SPORTS

Whether it's scheduling changes, newly announced events, or for updated scores, call the Sports Beat Info Line for the latest details. Athletic Director Tony Adler updates the message weekly, or more often, as events warrant.

RETIREMENT NEWS



The Retirement News is a regular feature of *The Thin Blue Line*. Retirees may submit articles for publication. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 4 of this issue.

Central Coast - Fuzz That Wuzz

by Dave Aikins

Greetings from all the gang up here on the beautiful Central Coast. How beautiful is it? Well, recently my son, Duane Aikins, who works Metro Div., came up for a visit with his family, which included their black labrador, Patton. I was hanging out with my golden retriever, Taffy. It was early January and we were all down at the beach, in Pismo smacking tennis balls into the low tide for our dogs to retrieve the romp into the foamy surf. Naturally, Taffy's whole life centers on this activity. It was sunny, about 70 degrees with a gentle, onshore breeze and a bright blue sky displaying those long lenticular clouds. We were saying our farewells, as Duane had to get back to L.A. for a Metro detail. Looking at the sky, I made a mental note that it was going to be a gorgeous sunset. As Taffy sniffed along the water's edge at some odd looking seashells, my wife, Judy and I watched the sky turn orange, red and yellow with the gray clouds above the dark blue surf, forming a giant amphitheater. The sun's rays of various shapes and colors beamed across the sky from its center, creating a breathtaking wonder. I don't recall savoring these beautiful events when my mind was on working. I guess retirement is a great time to reflect on a wonderful creation.

Speaking of something beautiful, our new roster of the Fuzz members is out and up to date. So here it is in alphabetical order, in case you are wondering where someone you know is hanging out these days: **Geraldine Auth, Robert & Dorothea Ballou, Dick & Ruby Beauchaine, Frank & Flo Beeson, Carl & Lucille Birck, Walter Boronich, John Bradbury, Charles & Audrey Brown, Edna Bryan, Bob & Delores Byron, John & Anna Calderwood, Freeman & Nellie Calvert, Warren & Judy Carlson, Jack O. Carter, Jack & Margie Collins, Joe & Myrl Cornwell, George & Susan Courtney, Wesley & Marie Crawford, Dave & Kitty Crock-**

ett, Bob & Marilyn Darnell, Edward & Bobbie Davis, Cliff & Lorraine De Bernardi, Ken Delong, Fred Dubrutz and Harold Epling.

Continuing with **Richard & Barbara Fragale, David Frazier, Brian & Cathy Galbraith, John & Mary Anne Georgi, Richard Gingras, Steve Grabell, James Haire, Paul & Barbara Hardy, Robert & Linda Harvey, Guy & Jane Hogue, Art & Cathy Hotchkiss, Sherl & Ray Hovas, Carl Ingels, Vic & Carol Jackson, Josanne Jackson, Raymond Johnson, Cathy Kleinsmith, Rich & Bev Knipp, Gerd & Nancy Konieczny, Charles & Priscilla La Fitte, Brad & Fay Lamdin, Robert & Sylvia Lee, Tom & Stella Lindholm, Sam & Paulette Lopez, William Mathieson, Jerry & Paula May, Max & Billie McAlpine, Donald McClelland, Bob & Joanne McSeveney, John Missick, Robert & Donna Muldrew, Chet Nicholl, Patty Olear/Gansemeyer, Bryan & Sharon Pearson, John & Grace Powers, Robert & Diana Pratt, Robert & Aileen Rackerby and Joe & Jean Ramey.**

Last, but surely not least, are: **Charles & Flo Reese, Fred & Ellen Reichman, Gil Rivera, Lucy Salls, Alan Schlocker, Marty & Rosemary Schlocker, Bill & Suzanna Selesky, Warren & Muriel Sizoo, Dustin Splain, Thomas & Christina Stead, Ken & Wanda Stiffler, Robert & Margaret Tipton, Bruno & Ellen Tonin, Fred & Sharline Tuggey, Virginia Van Houtte, Robert & Carole Velek, Carl & Agnes Wahl, Robert Wall, Jeff & Melissa Watkins, Gene & Nadine Watland, Jeannie West, Travis & Margie Willmon, Marion Yates, Tom & Dori Zwinger, and finally somewhat out of order, yours truly, **Dave & Judy Aikins**.** That's 147 super people.

Remember, we are at fuzzthatwuzz@juno.com for you cyberspace guys, so keep in touch and don't forget to enjoy those magnificent sunsets. KMA-367

Valley Retired Blues

by Clinton O. Erickson

Our next meeting will be on February 17, at 11:00 a.m., at "The Lamp-lighter" Restaurant located on the corner of DeSoto Avenue and Nordhoff Street. We meet in the room adjacent to the bar lounge. A special lunch menu will be available. Since this is the first of the year, mark your new calendars for our meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

We had 30 at the December 16, 1998, meeting with six who were new or had not attended in recent months. The attendees were **John Becker (5059), Rose Clark, Ted Debs (6808), Gene Dillon (3411), Jim Dougherty (6146), Emmett Drennen (3279), Ed Elliott (4703), Hilliard (Curly) Elliott (4534), Ron Epperson (6953), Bill Fedderson (4823), Dave Galarneau (6854), Maurie H. Goldstein (6227), Mel Harner (4501), Morrie Henkin (5247), John Kepke (4603), Tom Lindholm (4734), Don Lyon (6575), Bob May (3747), Lou Mellott (4037), Boris Meneghelli (3522), Lou Netza (7655), Joe Nieznalski**

For information about meetings, call me (Erickson) at (818) 340-2430. ♦

More Retirement News on next page

Los Angeles Police MEMORIAL FOUNDATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

The Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation will issue two \$5,000 scholarships in June 1999. Each scholarship will be for \$5,000 per year for four years/\$20,000 maximum.

To be eligible, a student must be the child of a current LAPD employee, and be enrolled or accepted at an accredited college or university.

The merit-based awards will be made to students who have demonstrated:

- a) Excellence in academic studies;
- b) Good character and high moral standards; and
- c) Extra-curricular achievement

Each applicant is required to submit two letters of recommendation.

One must be written by a current (12th grade or college) teacher. The other letter may come from any unrelated adult who knows that applicant well enough to comment on his or her character and moral standards.

The deadline for receiving all materials is March 31, 1999. Applicants may be obtained by contacting:



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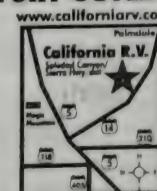
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RETIREMENT NEWS

Sacramento Area Blue Line Association

by Bernie Remas

If the winter "blahs" have come upon you, it's time for you to get out of the chair, put on your coat, and come have lunch with us at SABLA! We've got the "blahs" too. So come on by and see us. Bring a friend. You can cheer us up and help everybody get rid of the "blahs!"

I promised that I'd tell you about our Christmas luncheon—just in case you missed it and want to hear about what you missed. We had a great time! Or at least I had a good time. And for those of you that were there, you'll have to back me up!

Off the top, I must clear up some serious misinformation that I released at the luncheon. I had told our Christmas group that the wife of one of our most prominent members had passed away. Not true. In fact, it was the mother of the wife that died, and not the wife. I sincerely apologize to all of you for the incorrect information I released.

This Christmas luncheon was on Tuesday, December 15, 1998, at the Timbers Lodge at Del Webb's Sun City banquet room in Roseville. They gave us 10-person tables with lots of room! The room was festively decorated for the holidays, and all of us were "dressed up" and ready for a good time. We, or I should say I, went through the buffet line and took a lot of everything! Ham AND turkey, white and sweet potatoes, gravy—it's making me hungry just writing about it! After dessert, we had a "no-ticket-purchase" raffle! Hoy Key, SABLA's illustrious Treasurer, came up with enough money from our treasury to afford a

statues and trinkets. Call him for some great gift ideas for the whole year around, not just Christmas. The prices are good too. I tried to get my old Academy classmate **Bill Heins**, of Red Bluff, to let his wife **Barbara** select the "gift." In fact we tried to get the pretty gals to come up and choose the "gift." We see enough of their not-so-pretty husbands all year. Some did. Some didn't. Believe me when I tell you that all the gals looked—beautiful!

Chuck & Tamara Aselin of Placerville are considering a move back to the south to be near other family members. **Gene DeCrona** and **George Puddy** were at our table, and they were not drawn early. In fact Gene helped out at the end when Santa found that there were not enough "gifts" for everyone. Just one short. Santa is a little off every now and then. In the end everyone received a gift from SABLA—even if for just a few minutes! **John Krasts'** number was called early and he had **Fran** come to the table for a selection. I've already mentioned the lowest serial number present—#1618. Guess who had the highest serial number? None other than "old" #13707! Now that's "old!" C'mon you guys! We've got several 5-digit serial numbers in SABLA! #13707 belongs to **Mike Brandt**, the "old" mountain climber himself. **Wife Audrey** and Mike received their gift, and we moved on.

Bob Sharrett, one of my former radio car partners in 77th, and his new bride **Betty** were introduced to one and all. They "tied the knot" in October. And the honeymoon is just fine! Our congratulations and the best of luck to both of you! **Elie & Carl** "Lookin' for a Job" **Kuehn** were there and came by our house after



John Krasis (on left) with Dennis McDonald (on right, suit) and Justin Dryer (on right).

Christmas "gift" for everyone attending! Some were more valuable than others, but the SABLA idea was that it was better to give than receive! Using an idea from former Prez **Ed Lewandowski** and his wife **Cindy**, we drew LAPD serial numbers to determine the "winner." That "winner" would choose any gift on the table, and then choose another serial number for the next recipient. Choosing the lowest serial number to go first, #1618, **Ray Lauritzen** made the first choice, and the "no-ticket-purchase" raffle was on! When we got to the end, **Hank Seret** did not get called! Somehow his serial number (#6616) got lost in the shuffle! Can you believe that Santa would mess up? And to make matters worse, I neglected to mention that **Lee Seret** is happily living with Hank here in Del Webb's Sun City! Santa and me. What a pair!

Bob Tucker of Napa was the supplier for some of the "gifts." As you know, Bob sells all kinds of quality police and fire

lunch for a few minutes. One of them—maybe wants to downsize. Right, Ellie? Other Roseville Sun City folks were: **Chuck & Joan Blogin**, **Hal & Johnene White**, **Charlie & Carmen Long**, **Judy & I**, and don't forget **Lee & Hank Seret**! Someone remarked that **Dennis McDonald** had sent a proxy, 'cause there was this Dennis look-a-like with a suit, vest, dress shirt and tie! Wow! But all kidding aside, it was the real Dennis. He was sharp! **Bill & Muriel McMonagle** were all dressed up in their Christmas finery. As were **A. J. Miles & Betty Miles**. More newlyweds this year were **Justin & Karen Dyer**. I remember Justin got a good raffle prize. **Joe Sandoval** and his wife arrived a little late but were there for all the festivities. Now that we have a new governor, we may see a lot more of Joe. As a member of Governor Wilson's cabinet, he didn't have much time to meet and greet with all of us! **Bill & Ruby Wilhelm** will be eating out—or maybe they have already used their raffle prize.

Retirement Corner

February, 1999

Rank/Name/Serial No./Last Assigned To	#Years
Lt-II Fred Nixon 12782 O.C.V.D.	32
D-II Peter E. Walker 13468 Narcotics Group	32
D-II Dennis L. Hansen 13845 Northeast	30
DCP-I Robert S. Gil 14532 Human Resources Bureau	31
D-III Salvador Nares 14570 Hollenbeck	31
D-III Neil W. Kreitz 14645 O.C.V.D.	31
P-III Charles R. Vaughn 14676 North Hollywood	31
D-III Horacio "Bumpy" Marco 14719 Narcotics Group	31
D-III Gilbert W. Hetrick 14712 BAD	31
D-II Arthur "Larry" Kagele 14770 West Valley	31
Sgt-I Dennis L. Sebenick 14860 Harbor	30
D-II John D. Spreitzer 14867 Hollenbeck	30
D-I Santos Galvan, Jr. 14907 Narcotics Group	30
D-III Benito I. Gonzalez 14908 Juvenile	30
LT-II James P. Murphy 15468 BAD	29
LT-II John C. Weaver 15886 Narcotics Group	29
Sgt-II Michael W. Humphrey 16121 Narcotics Group	29
D-II Thomas V. Chambers 16335 Narcotics Group	28
D-II Anthony C. Canales 16405 Hollenbeck	29
P-II+2 Charles C. Wright 16550 Valley Traffic	28
D-III Joe S. Lewis 16705 77th Street	27
P-III+1 Craig K. Bushey 16978 Legal Affairs Sec.	27
P-II+2 John C. Teetor 17723 Valley Traffic	27
Sgt-I Bradley "Brad" Rhodes 17871 Harbor	26
D-II Paul "Mitsuru" Masuyama 20352 South Bureau Homicide	26
P-III John M. Peck, Jr. 20432 Traffic Coordination Sec.	26
D-II Michael F. Sheehan 20811 Legal Affairs Sec.	24
P-II+2 Grant D. Gardner 21364 Central Traffic	20

28 of L.A.'s finest for a total of 806 years of service.

Bob & Ferna Keel assured me that the Carnival Mexican cruise is not just for thirty-something singles looking for a good time! They just got back and had a great time, and both admit to being over 30! **Chuck & Lorrie Ward** were in the center of the room, surrounded by other winners! **Jack Smith**, #4921, and his wife were a little late but found some space to join in. Former I-3 **Bob Rogers**, #10692 (new guy) and **Nancy Reed**, both of whom have seen me emcee before, did win something! **Chuck & Millie Craw-**

Lauritzen, **Nate Iannone**, **George Puddy**, **Hal White**, and **John Powers**. September 3, 1940. I'll have photos of these five next month.

That leaves only one SABLA person unmentioned. Somebody said it was OK. But Bob Totans asked for equal time and closed the luncheon with a few humorous anecdotes. And with that, we were out there.

Now for February, our own **Jim Meskan** from Rocklin will be the guest speaker for that luncheon. Jim started



Gifts.

ford I hope won something. Chuck brought us our January guest speaker. More on that luncheon next time. **Bob & Betty Devin** were there. Where were you? We missed you. **Roy Kerton**, a former SABLA prez, and wife, **LaDonna**, came all the way from Elk Grove.

The surprise of the Christmas luncheon was the unscheduled appearance of **John "Two-gun" Powers**, who lives in nearby Cool, California. Now there's a someone with an LAPD history and past. We're going to sign John up for a guest speaker appearance soon.

The other surprise was that I mentioned Ray Lauritzen having the lowest LAPD serial number in the crowd. But then I find out that five at the luncheon were in the same Academy class. Ray

working a new job a few months back and will give us the details of a new product that is now on the market. He's the manufacturer's rep, and if you're there on Thursday, February 11th, you'll hear all the details.

On March 11, 1999, we have been promised a speaker from the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy of Sacramento. This group is extremely active in the Sacramento area in assisting law enforcement personnel and their families in times of need. They just put on a great Celtic Music & Bagpipe Concert late last year, so they have a variety of topics to discuss. So put that on your calendar too!

If you can't make it, write to us at P.O. Box 60353, Sacramento, CA 95860-0353.

Be good to each other out there. We need and love each and every one of you.

Home Town Runner Makes Good!

by Neil Parker
Old Blue Running Team

If he was your partner in a radio car, you knew that he was as solid as a rock, as bright as your badge, and as dependable as that six-shooter on your hip. If you were running in the same race with him, you'd know right away that you were up against a very dedicated, dogged and highly qualified competitor.

If you ran with him in one of the 70 plus marathons (that's 26.2 miles each) that he has completed in the last decade or so, you would find out that he runs through about four pairs of running shoes in a year, and that he is

Griffith Park. We need you and your talent.

Who are all these smiling faces? Go to the head of the class if you ID'd them as most of the runners and support people who won their 800 classification in the Laughlin-to-Vegas relay race in November. The "action photos" that we thought we would be able to share with you were not exactly, shall we say, complementary. In other words, when you are taking pix from the support van, don't be in back of the runners. We have a roll of the southbound end of 12 northbound runners. The photo lab at SID thinks they might be able to get a positive ID if we could get everyone to send in a DNA sample, and you know where



a determined, methodical, hard-working, always thinking individual. If he was the captain of your running team, you'd know that he was the leader, he

that request wound up. Anyhow, based on some very sober eyewitnesses, we have ID'd these folks as follows.



was in charge, ready to run whether it was in New York City, Chicago, Boston, Seattle or L.A. And, he knew what he was talking about.

If you worked with him, you'd know that in his "spare time" he graduated from law school, passed the Bar Exam on the first try while holding down a job as an LAPD copper, then retired on twenty and began a law practice. Well folks, when you have that many merit badges on your sash, it definitely says a few things, a few positive things, about what kind of a person you are. Evidently, the American Bar Association and the state of California noticed, as did then-Governor Pete Wilson, who this past December appointed the captain of LAPD's Old Blue running team, attorney Mel Sandvig, as a Municipal Court Judge in the Los Angeles Unified Court District. Hurrah, Mel! Congratulations, best wishes and God bless you my friend, and your wonderful wife, Nancy. All of your friends and partners at LAPD wish you the very best and loads of success as you step into your new role. And, Mel, if you can, try and make it to the team's monthly practice on Feb. 28 at

The group of eight are, standing L-R: Jay Hernando, Chuck McTaggart, 1999 Team Capt. Pat Connelly, Ray Romero, John Marnell, Bill Osuna. Sitting L-R: Neil Parker & 1998 Team Capt. and just appointed judge, Mel Sandvig. The group of four are, L-R: Keith Allen, Neil Parker, Dale Sprinkle, Ray Romero. In the large group picture, Ray Romero is holding the first place plaque that the team won. The hourglass-looking glassware that the rest of us are holding is decorated with a Scorpion and the race logo. It was a great race and one heck of a lot of fun. Again, thanks to Chuck Foote and Larry Moore for putting it all together. Not shown: Jim O'Connor, Chuck Foote, Bruce Hoover, and Plan L.

Seventy-five days out and counting down! You guessed it right again, partners. That is the weekend of April 10 and 11 when the 15th running of the Baker to Vegas 120-mile Challenge Cup Relay takes place. The Rio Suite Hotel will be race HQ. Don't miss it. Call 702/227-6887 for info. Next month we'll talk about two groups without whom there would not be a race: The Good Sam Folks and M.A.R.C. C-U then.

Dates to Remember

February

February 4	Thomas Chambers	1800	1900
February 7	John Teetor	1100	
February 11	Al Moen	1700	1800
February 11	Bob Ruchhoff	1700	1800
February 11	S.A.B.L.A.	1100	
February 12	Mike Humphrey	1700	1800
February 17	Bob Gil	1800	
February 17	Valley Retired Blues	1100	
February 19	Horacio Marco	1700	1800
February 25	Richard Aldahl	1700	1830
February 26	Ben Gonzalez	1700	1800
February 28	Wilshire Run Against Crime	0630	

March

March 4	George Aliano	1800	1900
March 4	Bill Wilson,	1730	1830
	Roy Hunter &		
	Chris Krist		
March 4	Michael Anderson,	1600	1730
	Steve Grenier &		
	Gil Freese		
March 11	S.A.B.L.A.	1100	
March 18	Greg Vasquez	1130	1200
March 19	Gilbert Hetrick	1730	1830
March 24	Peter Weireter	1700	1800
March 26	Ed Lindsey	1700	1800

More Retirement News on next page

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Tickets: \$25.00

Contact: Judy Evans - No.Hollywood Div.
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The Los Angeles Police Department - Narcotics announces a...

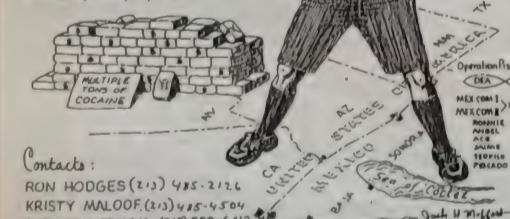
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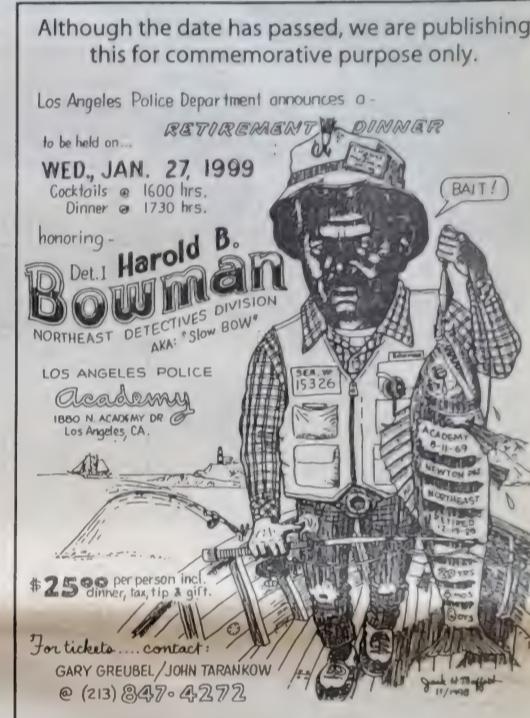
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H97-02

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F-17

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F-15

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D-24

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G-11

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A-5

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I97-11

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A-12

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A-8

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D-11

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I98-03

continued on next page

February '99 / The Thin Blue Line / Page 51

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F98-07

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L98-03

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A99-03

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B99-01

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E-2

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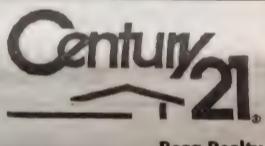


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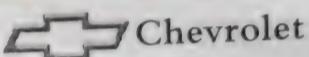
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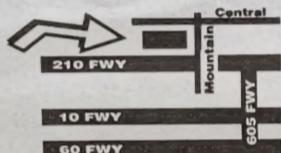
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